



Grounding

I have spent time recently reading my church history textbook from my first year in seminary and it has been very eye opening. I have enjoyed engaging in this book after almost eight years since the last time I read it.

What sticks out the most is how much persecution the early Church went through for their belief in Christ. Many people lost their land, families, and most resources. Many were shunned from the greater community. Many lost their lives. At the time, one would think the Church would not last long.

However, the Church lived on and impacted the world in such ways that those early Christians couldn't even imagine. My understanding as to how they got through the persecution was being grounded in their faith in Jesus and his death and resurrection.

Because of this faith, the Church could cling to the hope that the people hurting them do not get the last word.

God does.

And when people are grounded in their faith in Jesus, it is hard to extinguish the light they bring. The Roman empire tried to and it did not go so well for them.

My hope for all of us in August, friends, is that we stay grounded in the death and resurrection of Jesus and the hope it brings. There is a lot going on in our world that we do not have control of. We as humans don't have the answers to many of the questions going on around us.

We have to trust that God is going to do something with all the chaos going around us. We have to trust that there will be a brighter tomorrow. And we have to trust that we are equipped to love our neighbor in the midst of it.

When times get hard, I encourage you to think of the lyrics to the hymn we sang last Sunday:

"On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand."

Pastor Branden

In addition to considerations of COVID, **return to in-person communion** is dependent on additional volunteers for the Altar Guild which prepares, sets up and cleans up communion. At the moment Judy Halamka is handling this for the disposable communion cups, but full communion, as we have historically taken it, requires more work and, therefore, more volunteers. Please speak with Pr. Branden, Judy or any member of council if you can serve the church this way.

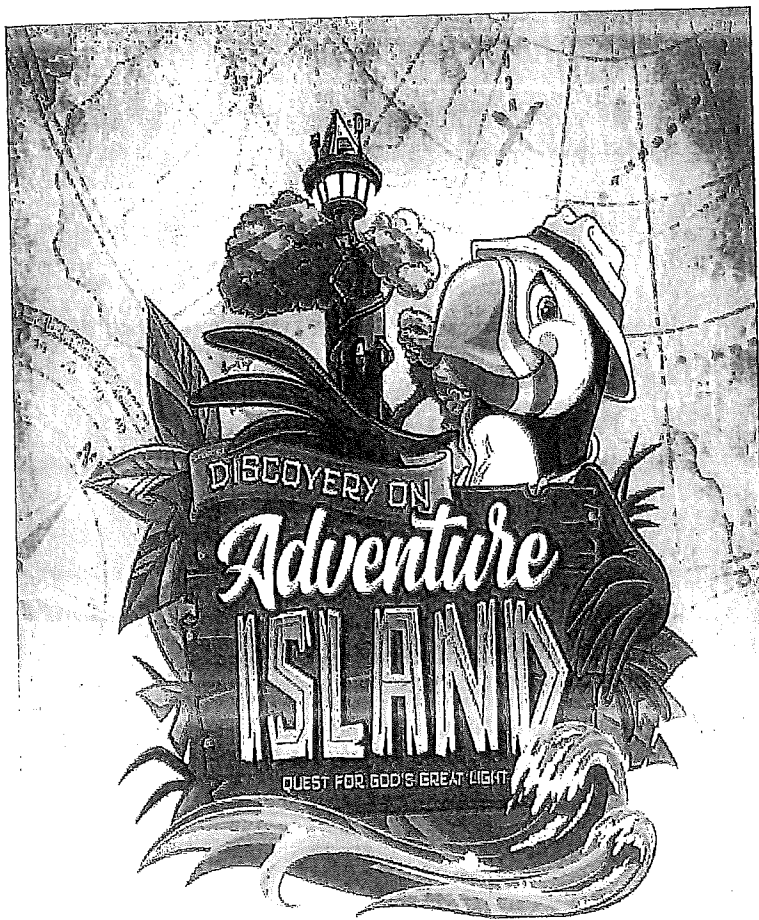


You can Teach!

Sunday School Help needed:

Are you interested in helping out with Sunday School beginning in September? We are in need of **teachers, substitute teachers, friends** to help with singing and music at the beginning of our Sunday morning sessions. **Sunday School Rally Day is September 18th**. We will have an initial planning meeting for anyone interested in helping with Sunday School this year on **August 30th at 6:30**.

Questions: Contact Leann Smith, #810-488-5829 or leann57@iwarps.net



Join us for Vacation Bible School
August 1st-5th, 5:00-7:30 p.m.
Ages: 4 year olds-Adult

Don't forget to sign up and register for Vacation Bible School, August 1st-5th if you are attending and/or volunteering. You can sign up online: myvbs.org/stpaulslutheranph or forms are in the church narthex. Contact Leann Smith: #810-488-5829 or leann57@iwarf.net with any concerns or questions.



Food Truck

Date: August 25th, 2022

Time: Be there by 10:00 AM

Distribution starts at 11:00 AM

Place: St. Paul Lutheran Church

**WE NEED 25-30
VOLUNTEERS...**

**To help register families,
put food into cars,
to direct parking etc.
There will be a signup sheet in
The Narthex**



**Be A
Volunteer**

We will also need extra boxes & plastic grocery bags to put the food in.

AUGUST AT ST. PAUL

A WORLD WITH NO HUNGER



**AUGUST 1ST-5TH VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL
5PM TO 7:30 P.M. WITH A LIGHT
MEAL AT 5 P.M.**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 14 GUEST SPEAKER
PASTOR KURT HUTCHENS WITH
FOOD FOR THE POOR**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 21 GUEST SPEAKER
PASTOR ANNA TAYLOR-MCCANTS
WITH FED UP MINISTRIES**

**THURSDAY AUGUST 25
FOOD TRUCK DAY
VOLUNTEERS PLEASE BE HERE AT 10
WITH DISTRIBUTION STARTING AT
11**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28 AT 9:30 GUEST
SPEAKER ALICE REEVES FROM MID
CITY NUTRITION SPEAKING ON THE
HISTORY OF MID CITY NUTRITION
AND HOW IT IS PROGRESSING**



Nomination Time is near. Our annual voting day is Sunday, November 6. The Nominating committee is looking for volunteers for council members, officers and committee representatives to lead us forward in our faith.

Please consider these positions. We ask that you yourself be open to consideration, that you volunteer or suggest others who might be willing to fill these positions.

The following are elected every year:
Council President Elect
Assistant Financial secretary
Youth Representative (student)
Audit Committee representative (3 year term)
Mutual Ministry Representative (3 year term, every third year the representative is appointed by council executive and Pastor
Nominating Committee (four: two outgoing council members and two from general congregation
Archives Committee Representative
Synod Assembly Representatives (two)

Terms for the following positions begin in an odd-numbered year (2023)
Council/Voters Meeting Secretary
Evangelical Chairperson
Financial Representative
Worship and Music Chairperson
Youth Ministry Chairperson (adult)

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS
July 13, 2022
GATHER, GRACE, GROW, GO

GATHER:

We will do a community direct mailing to the homes closest to the church building. We want to let our nearest neighbors know who we are and that we would like to meet them.

Sprucing up the narthex continues. Our bulletin boards are due for total makeovers!

September 25th will be our next Friendship Sunday.

A picnic is being planned with all three ELCA congregations invited. Our host will be Kathy Rose at her home in Port Huron. She is a member of St. Martin.

BTW, Pr. Charlie Martin will serve Our Savior for the next six months. Pr. Martin is a second career pastor and Our Savior is enthused about his arrival!

GRACE:

The Altar Guild has six new volunteers so we will soon be returning to service of communion as in the past.

GROW:

VBS is off to a good start with 8 youngsters and adults registered with 13 volunteers standing by.

GO:

Offering of Letters is still in need of a hand at the helm. It is a one-Sunday event with resources available at <https://ol.bread.org/>

The Conference 2 antiracism workshop being presented by the SEMI Synod BRRICK team is set for October 22. Registration will be available on the <https://www.semisynodjustice.com/> website and watch the newsletter for further details.

Financial: Monthly giving dropped again in June. We are now 7% below our projected giving and only six months into the year. It may prove difficult to stay within our 2022 budget.

Property: The project to lay new mulch along the Reflection Trail has been completed. Volunteers are needed to weed the border around the building. The wood border will soon need to be replaced.

Parish Education: Plans for VBS continue. Sunday School Rally Day is September 18th. New curriculum material has been selected and ordered. There will be a meeting on August 30th for interested members who wish to help with Sunday School this year. A Library committee has been formed; thank you, Kathy Strauss and Lisa Schleicher.

Evangelism Team: The group of young adults, Mutual Aid, continues to be supported by our congregation by donation of personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, diapers and other items that cannot be purchased with a Bridge Card. The collected items will be distributed by Mutual Aid in our community.

Technology: A badly needed new computer is on its way to us to ensure our ability to continue streaming our worship services.

Gift and Endowment Fund policies: There will be a special congregational council meeting to hammer out the details of these policies. Any changes in the Gift Policy will require an amendment to our Constitution which, in turn, requires a vote of the congregation.

Youth Ministry: The position of council representative for our Youth Ministry remains open. If you have a heart for kids of all ages and the energy to keep up with them, speak with Pr. Branden or Lucy Fabick!

Remember, we will retain two worship services throughout the summer at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Also, be sure to welcome and introduce yourself to **Gail Vermander** in the church office. Her hours will be 8 a.m.-1p.m. Monday through Friday.

Next council meeting is August 8 at 6:30. All are welcome; please join us!

Marilyn Knak, President

*Don't worry about anything,
but in everything, through prayer and petition
with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God.
Phil 4.6*

Coming Workshops

WORSHIP GOD IN A NEW WAY!

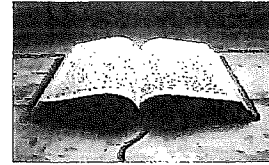
There are a variety of ways in which to respond to God's love and mercy. One of those opportunities is to assist in the leadership of worship. Altar Guild members, ushers, lectors, and acolytes find these tasks to be an incredible way in which to enrich their own worship while helping the congregation praise God

Sometimes, however, it is uncomfortable and challenging to take on a new role, not knowing what is really involved in the task.

In order to provide leadership in worship and assist the pastor, the Stewardship Committee plans to hold workshops during August to equip willing volunteers with the expectations of each task, understanding of the significance and tradition behind the task, provide a mentor, and add a comfort level so that participating is a genuine offering of both praise and service. Take the opportunity to meet between services whether you have experience or are just thinking about volunteering. Come join the discussions, learn from each other, get your questions answered, get an informational booklet and if the Spirit speaks to you afterward—volunteer.

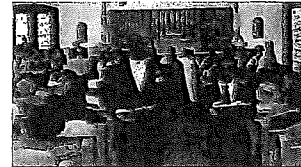
A schedule of topics, dates, and times is listed to the right.

A light brunch will be served at each workshop provided by a Thrivent Action Team grant. To help us prepare for each worship please sign up at the table in the narthex.



LECTOR WORKSHOP – August 7 at 9:30

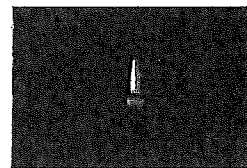
The reading of God's Word to the people gathered for worship.



This Photo by Unknown

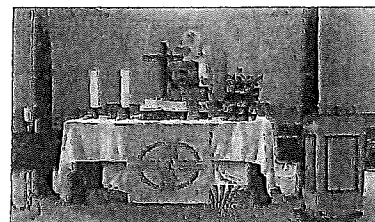
USHER WORSHIP –August 14 at 9:30

Greeting and assisting the congregation in the acts of worship.



ACOLYTE WORKSHOP—August 14 @ 10:00

Bringing God's light into a sin darkened world, filling it with HOPE.



This Photo by Unknown Author is

ALTAR GUILD WORKSHOP—August 21, 2022 @ 9:30

Learn about the church calendar, the colors, banners, altar linens, prepare for communion, care for the sacramental vessels among other tasks.

ALTAR FLOWERS



If you wish to sponsor altar flowers, there are signup sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

There are still Sundays available.

Cost of the flowers is \$25 per Sunday sponsored. Please include your payment with your regular offering with the amount listed under the "other" line and "flowers" written on the line. If you don't have offering envelopes, put payment in an envelope indicating your name and that the payment is for altar flowers.



HEART WORKS

We meet the first Tuesday of every month, unless it is a holiday, from 10 until noon. Please come join us as we

knit, crochet, or loom items to share with those who are in need. You will find us in the activity room. Mark your calendar, and join us on August 2nd! Any questions please call Kathy Strauss, 810-985-5361.

OUR DAILY BREAD

The June/July/August edition of "Our Daily Bread Devotion" is available for you to pick up. They are in the slots under the mailboxes located in the church office hallway. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a copy. There are also some available in the Neighborhood Box.



Our Church congregation's success depends as much on members' sharing of their time and talents as it does on their tithing. That said, as we continue to transition back to in-sanctuary worship services, we are looking for members to share in the duties and tasks associated with worship services, specifically serving as ushers and lectors at this time. The Stewardship Committee will be placing sign-ups on the Church bulletin board for volunteers for these duties, or you can call or e-mail the Church office, Diane Welsh (Stewardship Committee Chair) or Karen Lee (who representing Church Council has been leading this initial return to in-sanctuary worship.

As we build this list of volunteers, we plan to work toward having a calendar reflecting an assigned rotation of those duties, similar to how it was handled pre-pandemic. Those of us who have been handling the tasks will share notes and work with you on what duties are involved...Like the saying goes, "Many hands make for lighter work" so thanks in advance for sharing your time, talents to help our Church be successful!

2022 Church Council

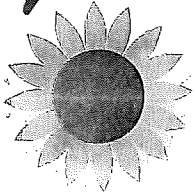
Marilyn Knak, Council President
Marcus Middleton, President Elect
Marcia Conard, Council Secretary
Julie Lusk, Treasurer
Jane Dennis, Financial Secretary
Kathy Strauss, Asst. Financial Secretary
Karen Lee, Financial Representative
Leanne Fortushniak, Evangelism Rep
Leann Smith, Parish Ed Rep
Ivan Smith, Properties Rep
Diane Welsh, Stewardship Rep
Sue Wilson, Worship Rep



Just a reminder 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!

*Thank
You!*



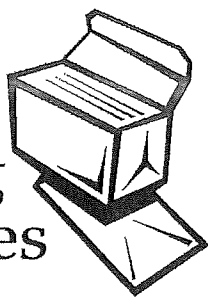
A huge THANK YOU to those who donated books as well as to those who bought books at our recent WELCA Book Sale. We raised \$340 during the sale. We are so grateful for the help of Connie Dompier, Marilyn Knak,

Jane Dennis, and Don Strauss in unpacking and sorting books, tending to the book sale on May 29th and June 5th, as well as helping "take down" the sale. Books that were not sold were donated to the St. Clair Co. public library and to Goodwill Industries.

Thank you again,

Lisa Schleicher and Kathy Strauss

Offering Envelopes



Church Envelope Update

The offerings received weekly support the ministry, outreach, benevolence, staff salaries, mortgage reduction, & the cost of operating the church building.

Offering envelopes are available to all worshippers and are mailed to the home address monthly. If you are not receiving envelopes and wish to have them, contact the church office.

For a small fee you can also donate on line using Tithe.ly by having the funds transferred from your checking account.

Cash donations also support the ministry but you will not receive a quarterly statement of donations.

The current list of envelopes was recently reviewed and envelopes not being used were deleted to reduce costs.

Puzzle!

Search for and circle all the bold words from Psalm 18:2, which reminds us where we find our strength.

The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, my **FORTRESS** and my **DELIVERER**; my **GOD** is my rock, in whom I **TAKE REFUGE**. **HE** is my **SHIELD** and the **HORN** of my **SALVATION**, my **STRONGHOLD**.

S	T	R	O	N	G	H	O	L	D	T	S
O	L	O	B	K	I	E	Y	E	J	S	A
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X	H	X	A	R	K	L	R	C	N	H	Y
G	O	D	T	D	K	A	D	K	U	D	X

GOD ROCKS!

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 2021 to May 2022. Our NPO number is RK460. **Registration is online only.** Last quarter 34 households earned \$80.49 rewards for St. Paul.

Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for September Ray is Sunday, August 14, 2022. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (stpaulww@comcast.net), on a flash drive or in writing.



Melba Bartley
Connie Ganger
Lavina Kodet
MaryAnn Meyer



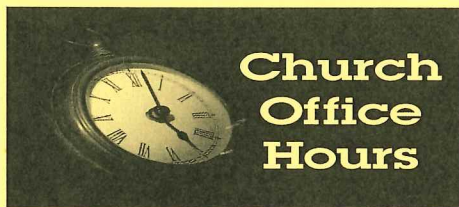
Prayer requests are welcomed and can be made on our Facebook page, by emailing the church office at stpaulww@comcast.net, or with our connection cards.

To keep the list current, please make your request each week you wish to have your loved one's name included in the prayers.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 a.m. & 11:00 am



OFFICE HOURS:

8am to 1pm Monday-Friday



While all 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. Please join us at 8:00 am on our Facebook page for our livestream service.