

From the Pastor's Desk

This past week I spent time rereading all of my "From the Pastor's Desk" articles from the past sixteen months. There has been a common thread woven throughout. A thread of grief, loss and disappointment along with a thread of caring for our neighbors and those most vulnerable, what it means to be church-both "church" and "Church", and hope for our future.

So, as I sit here at my computer trying to write something new, something different, something relevant to where we are today, honestly, I'm struggling. So much has changed over the past sixteen months and yet so much has stayed the same.

There has been so much grief, loss and disappointments – deaths of members, family and friends, health changes, loss of jobs, loss of relationships, division in our community and country. There have been postponements and cancellations of life events – funerals, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and graduations.

As a congregation, we have continued to care for the most vulnerable together, we have served our neighbors together, we have worshipped each week on-line, outdoors and drive-in style together, we have studied scripture together, we have prayed together, we have been the Church together.

There is hope for our future because we have a gracious and merciful God.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie



Retirement

As of mid August, I will be retiring from my position as Church Secretary.

I have enjoyed my fifteen years serving St. Paul and have also enjoyed being part of the St. Paul family.

Diane Biskner

Job Opening-

With the retirement of our church secretary, Diane Biskner, we are looking for a part-time secretary. Currently, the position is approximately 12-15 hours per week with the plan to increase the number of hours to 20-22 hours per week. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact the church office. A full job description is available upon request.



VOUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for the Food Truck on Thursday August 19, 2021. The need for food in our area is still great.

If you can help, please be there by 10:00AM.

The distribution starts at 11:00AM. Please bring a mask and gloves if you have them. Masks and gloves are recommended. If you forget your mask or gloves they will be provided.

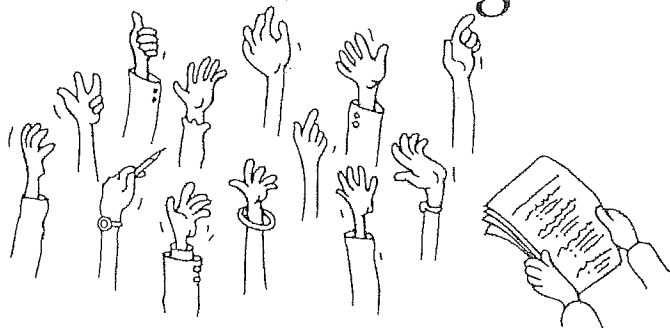
The Food distribution will be the same as it was in May. The food and volunteers will be in the middle of the paved parking lot. The food recipients will drive around the outside of the paved parking lot and stay in their cars while the volunteers put food into boxes in their cars. If you have extra plastic grocery bags or boxes, please bring them. If you can help, please call or text Don Strauss at 810-434-2380.

A \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team Grant has been applied for, for this food truck.

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.

Special Congregational Meeting



August 15th, 2021
immediately following the
9:30 worship service

As president of St. Paul Lutheran Church, I am calling a special congregational meeting, upon the written request of ten (10) percent of the congregation, for August 15th, 2021 following the 9:30 worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on the proposal stated below:

"To immediately and fully reopen St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church for all ministry services, meetings, and activities and to trust and allow each individual member and visitor to make their own health assessment and take their own individual precautions in regards to any potential illnesses".

Richard Cochrill
Council President
St. Paul Lutheran Church



Nomination Time

We are asking you to keep the Nominating Committee in your prayers as we work to develop a ballot of officers and committee representatives with spiritual skills to build our faith community.

God calls us to respond to his grace in action, to be his voice, ears, arms and legs. Each of us must identify the skills with which he has blessed us with and use them to share the Gospel message.

If you feel God's call to serve in one of the following positions, please submit your name to the Nominating Committee for consideration:

President Elect (2 years)

Treasurer (2 years)

Parish Education (2 years)

Stewardship (2 years)

Nominating Committee (1 year)

Audit Committee (3 years)

Mutual Ministry (3 years)

At the same time, the Nominating Committee is prayerfully seeking candidates to fill these same positions. If you are contacted, please pray for guidance in considering the request, and respond as God directs you.

Names may be submitted to the Nominating Committee during the month of August. Job descriptions are available through the committee members. Those elected at the November Voters' meeting will begin serving January 1, 2022.

Your 2021 Nominating Committee,

Linda Barker, John Lusk, Cathy Stuewer, Joan Vercnocke, Pastor Bonnie.

"Bread of Life" worship series

Every three years as part of the Revised Common Lectionary, we read the Bread of Life discourse. This year we will experience it slightly different as we join five pastors from our synod as they each read the Gospel and preach. If you are joining us on-line, you will see them preach. If it is a week where we are meeting for Outdoor worship, Pastor Bonnie will share their message. This promises to be an enlightening way of engaging the very familiar Bread of Life discourse – join us!

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!

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
Marcus Middleton, Properties Rep
Ann Preimesberger, Stewardship Rep
Sue Wilson, Worship Rep
Lucy Fabick, Youth Rep
Cathy Stuewer, Youth Team Rep

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

July 12, 2021

Star Word - *Loving*

Reopening Committee met in July and are continuing with the worship schedule as planned. They will meet again in early August.

Air conditioning - Voted to put this on hold until spring.

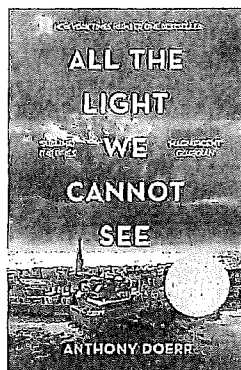
West parking lot - All work has been completed.

Keyboard - Voted to purchase a new keyboard for the sanctuary.

Technology update - Voted to purchase equipment to provide live streaming.

Audit Report - Voted to accept the annual audit report as printed.

Diane Biskner retirement - Council accepted the retirement letter of our church secretary. A tremendous thank you for the past fifteen years of service to St. Paul.



Beyond the Bible-

We have chosen our new book "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. Our first meeting to discuss the book will be Sunday, August 29 at noon. We have been meeting outside the church in the shade. Please bring a sack lunch and your lawn chair. We are scheduled to have an outdoor/drive-in worship that day. Please read Section One for our discussion. ALL are welcome to join us as we begin a new book!

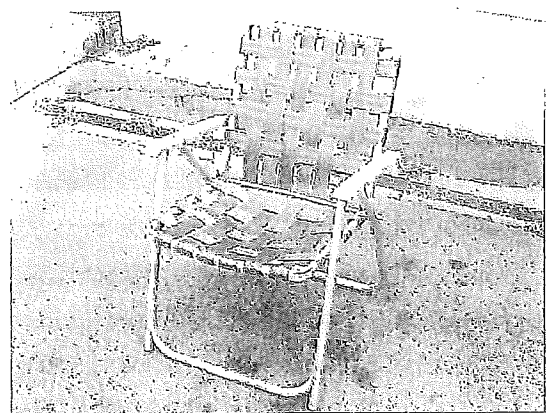
Re-Opening the Building Committee

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!

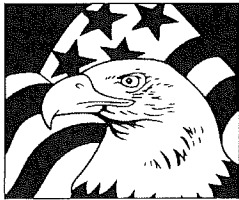


Save the Dates: Drive-In/Outdoor
Worship August 15 @ 9:30 and
August 29 @ 8:00 & 10:30

Bathrooms will be open!

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 September Ray is Sunday, August 15, 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.



**Join us for Outdoor/Drive-In Worship
August 15 @ 9:30 a.m.
and August 29 @ 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 stpaulmlutheranph.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.