

COVER LETTER

4/21/2021

Dear Gardeners

Find attached the new 2021 Application and Guidelines for the St. Paul Lutheran Church Community Garden.

1. **Everyone who rents a plot(s) is always invited and encouraged to help in the larger part of the garden.** Call 810-434-2380 for more information.
2. St. Paul Lutheran Church has a policy that Marijuana is not permitted anywhere on the church property.
3. We now have a large round composter between the 2 trees in the garden. If you have any weeds, they may be put in the composter if it is not full. No vegetable plants.
4. The biggest complaint we get about the garden is spoiled produce. If you will be gone for a while and would like your garden picked when we pick the Mid City part of the garden, please call 810-434-2380 and place a green stake in your garden plot(s) while you are gone. Green stakes will be behind the garage. If you have more produce than you can use, please let us know and we will try to donate it to Mid City Nutrition.
5. We must comply with current Covid 19 health requirements.

I will let you know when the garden plots are ready. This is usually about the end of May or early June. Please call me at 810-434-2380 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Don Strauss

GARDENER GUIDELINES

Adopt a Plot

St. Paul Lutheran Church Community Garden

3790 W. Water Street

Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone 810-434-2380

The following guidelines have been established by the members of the garden committee. Please read the guidelines and direct any questions or comments to the garden monitor, Don Strauss Phone 810-434-2380

- 1 All gardeners are required to complete an application form.
- 2 New in 2016, there is a **Honey Bee Hive** near the garden. If you don't disturb the bees they won't bother you. Their only goal is to collect nectar and pollen. To protect the honey bees, all inorganic pesticides (Sevin, Malathion etc.) **are banned from the garden.** We have used organic pesticides (Neem oil, Garden Dust and Thuricide—Bacillus Thuringiensis BT) for several years with good results. Organic pesticides are poisonous for only a few hours, where inorganic pesticides are poisonous for 3 to 7 days and harmful to bees. The best time to spray is **before the sun goes down** (bees are less active then). Please call Don, the garden monitor, with any questions.
- 3 **Keep your plot and the adjoining pathways tended.** If your plot appears to be untended for a period of time and you haven't contacted the garden monitor, you will be contacted and your plot may be assigned to another gardener. Call your garden monitor if you need help. If you plan to discontinue use of your space, please let the garden monitor know as soon as possible so that your plot can be assigned to another gardener.
- 4 **Plant tall plants and vines** in places where they **will not interfere** with your **neighbor's plot or block a walking path.** Planting illegal plants is prohibited. Marijuana is not permitted anywhere on the church property. Please plant annuals only.
- 5 At the end of the gardening season, all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, etc.) must be removed and disposed of properly and all plots left neat and tidy. **If your garden is not maintained and cleaned up by October 10th, you could lose your gardening privileges for the next season, be limited to fewer plot(s) next season or be required to pay a higher fee next season.**
- 6 Pick up litter in garden and **PLEASE** don't throw unwanted produce on the grass.
- 7 All vegetable plants are to be bagged and removed from the garden so as not to contaminate the gardens. If you have any weeds, they may be put in the composter, if it is not full.
- 8 **Do not apply anything to or pick anything from another person's plot without their express permission.**
- 9 Please clean and return any borrowed tools to the storage area.
- 10 Smoking and chewing tobacco is not allowed. Tobacco can transmit a lethal virus to tomatoes and cigarette butts are loaded with toxins.
- 11 Pets, drugs (including alcohol), radios, boom boxes and fires are not allowed.
- 12 Please supervise children in the garden.
- 13 For your safety, only garden during daylight hours. Consider gardening in pairs or keeping a cell phone nearby if it makes you feel more comfortable.
- 14 Report theft, vandalism and unusual activities to garden monitor (810-434-2380).
- 15 Use common courtesy, be considerate of your gardening neighbors and ENJOY.

- 16 **If any of the guidelines are violated** you will be contacted by phone, in person, e-mail or the U. S. mail and have one week to address the violation. After one week, if the violation has not been remedied, you may lose your gardening privileges.
- 17 **Turn the electric fence off** when working in the garden. If you are the last one to leave, make sure that all gates are closed and the electric fence is on. If this becomes a problem, we will have to **lock the fencer on** and then everyone will have to use the insulated handles to open the gates.
- 18 Let's try to make the whole garden area as **weed free** and productive as we can. If you hoe or cultivate your bare soil once every 2 weeks before the weeds come up, weed control is much easier.
- 19 **Don't drink the well water.**
- 20 Everyone who rents garden plot(s) is always **invited** and **encouraged** to help in the larger part of the garden.
- 21 Please make sure that your produce is harvested before it spoils. If you will be gone for a while and would like your garden picked when we pick the Mid City part of the garden, please call the garden monitor and place a green stake in your garden plot(s) while you are gone. Green stakes will be behind the garage. If you have more produce than you can use, please call the garden monitor and we will try to donate it to Mid City Nutrition.

OTHER INFORMATION

St. Paul Lutheran Church is providing garden plots for the whole community (not just members of St. Paul) so people can grow their own fresh produce, see how vegetables grow, and save money. Plots are 10' X10' in size and if the participant(s) would like a larger space they can reserve more than 1 plot.

All the plots will be plowed and worked up with the initial fertilizer applied at the beginning of the season. More Nitrogen will be applied by about the end of June. At the end of the season the garden will be worked up again and a cover crop will be planted for the winter, weather permitting.

Some basic tools will be made available for those who don't have them. There will be some educational opportunities for those who would like them.

The remainder of the garden space will be maintained by volunteers with the produce being donated to Mid-City Nutrition.

Note: We must comply with current Covid 19 health requirements.

Garden Committee

Don Strauss, Garden Monitor

Pastor Bonnie Klos

Mary Leitch

David Massey

Scott Herber

Ivan Smith

Please keep this information for future reference.

(4/21/21)

GARDENER APPLICATION

ADOPT A PLOT

St. Paul Lutheran Church Community Garden
3790 W. Water Street
Port Huron, MI 48060
810-434-2380

1. Gardener name(s)_____
2. Address_____
3. Gardener phone:(home)_____ (cell)_____
4. Gardener e-mail_____
5. Did you have a plot at this garden last year? Yes___ No___
6. Number of plots this year_____.
\$10.00 Per Plot Nonrefundable fee: PAID Yes___ No___
7. If you are a new gardener, would you like an experienced gardener to help you?
Yes___ No___
8. If you are an experienced gardener, would you like to help a new gardener?
Yes___ No___
9. Photo permission: From time to time, gardeners, garden leaders and the media will take photos of the garden. Please check here (___) if you do not give your permission for your photo to be published. If you do not give your permission, please let photographers know when you encounter them at the garden.
10. Phone and e-mail: All gardeners are required to share their phone number and e-mail address with garden leaders. In addition, a gardener phone and e-mail list may be shared with all gardeners. Please check here (___) if you do not give your permission to share your phone number and e-mail with all gardeners.

By signing below, I agree that I have read and understand the Gardener Guidelines and plan to abide by all of the garden rules. I understand that neither the garden group nor owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the garden group and owners of the land for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or my guests.

Signature
(4/21/21)

Date