



From the
PASTOR

Welcome to February!

I am very honored and humbled to be asked to write a column every month for the church newsletter. I have thought about what this could look like and have landed on the idea of choosing a theme for each month to write on. The word for February is hope.

And what a word it is!

Hope can mean different things to different people. Hope can heal. Hope can hurt. Hope can keep a person going. Hope can cause a person to take their life in a totally different direction. Hope can help a person reach heights that they never thought possible!

As we enter into Black History Month, I am reminded of words by MLK that he spoke in February of 1968, two months before he was assassinated. "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

There will be times of disappointment in our lives. No one gets a free pass from it. But that disappointment is finite. We will get through it. That disappointment may be painful. It may feel like a death. But infinite hope reminds us there is a resurrection right around the corner. Easter Sunday is coming. And we cling to that.

I have seen hope in Port Huron in how people treat each other. I have seen hope in the different programs that are in Port Huron. I see hope in how our church members support each other in times of trial.

What a blessing hope is!

As we move through February, what ways have you see hope?

Grace and Peace

Pastor Branden

Return to In-Sanctuary Services

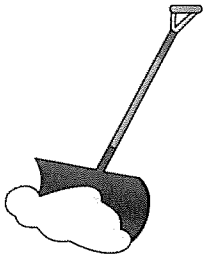
- Our new in-person worship service times at St. Paul Lutheran will be 8 am and 11 am separately; Pastor Branden Hunt will lead a 9:30 am worship service at St. Martin Lutheran Church under our pastoral sharing arrangement.
- St. Paul continues to worship under a mask mandate regardless of vaccination status to protect the most vulnerable among us. As communicated at recent worship services, please accept our apologies as the December newsletter inadvertently did not run the final version of the approved protocols for our "Return to In-Sanctuary Worship Services".
- Given our sanctuary's size, we must limit the number of attendees per service to provide adequate social distancing. Thus, to manage attendance, please continue to preregister by calling or e-mailing the church: Leave your name, number of people attending, the desired 8 am or 11 am service time and a contact phone number.



Ash
WEDNESDAY

Please join us for Ash Wednesday Service at 7 PM on March 2nd. We begin the journey to Easter Sunday by gathering together on this night and being human together. The theme for Lent this year is "Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfection of Life and Faith."

Please join us as we dive into this theme together.



Please share your gift of shoveling by volunteering with a partner for a week this winter. Our sidewalks need to be shoveled and salted each time it snows! There is a snow blower available for a heavier snowfall. Please call Marcus, 810-434-9673, or the church office, 810-982-9853, to volunteer.



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!

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

The December/January/February edition of "Our Daily Bread Devotion" is available 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.

Dear Friends,

I would like to interrupt your newsletter reading to give you all a special thanks for the wonderful Christmas gift I received this past December. It was very generous and unexpected. It means a lot.

I want to thank you for the warm reception that my family and I have received. I am excited for all we will accomplish as the church together in Port Huron.

Thank you

You may return to your regular scheduled newsletter reading.

P Branden


Hello St. Paul Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful card and extremely generosity Christmas gift. It has been so wonderful seeing your faces up close and personal since we've been able to worship again in our sanctuary!

I so appreciate your kindness and patience as we cross the little milestones in being able to worship together, and can't wait for the day that I get to hear our whole church singing again!

Christmas blessings and Happy New Year!

Amy

 *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 year. See Thrivent's website for more information.

You can also call 800-847-4836 and Thrivent will assist you.



STEWARDSHIP GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

The Stewardship Committee is starting back up again!

We are encouraging/welcoming previous and new members to please come and join us in this planning Committee for your Time, Talents and Offerings, etc.

The next meeting will be at the church on Wed., Feb 2, 2022 @ 3:30pm.

Peace & Love

Diane Welsh, Stewardship Chair Rep.

PS: Volunteers are needed for Ushers and Lectors. There are sign up lists posted in the Narthex.

Contacts: Diane W. (810) 987-5542

Diane B. (810) 982-9853

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
Lucy Fabick, Youth Rep
Cathy Stuewer, Youth Team Rep

*Thank
You*

Thank you for your
Christmas gift, it was very
much appreciated.
Happy, Healthy 2022!
Diane Biskner

**CAN
& BOTTLE
DRIVE**

Hello! We have a lot of bottles at the church that need to be returned. The money goes towards St. Paul youth, and I would be very grateful if people could chip in and help return bottles. I have taken several loads, but I haven't been able to keep up because we get so many donations. After you return the bottles, please cash in the slip for money, and give the money to either me, Cathy Stuewer or Marcus Middleton. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Love Lucy

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 10, 2022

In an effort to know and be more fully and authentically known as brothers and sisters in Christ to one another, Marilyn suggested that as each council member shares their devotion it be related to a personal experience.

For this year, prior to monthly council meetings at 6 p.m., council members will have the opportunity to participate in discernment and discussion led by Marilyn and centering on The Universe in 57 words - Seven Days Inside the Lord's Prayer by Carolyn Arends.

Election results and committee compositions were announced and reviewed. Following the special congregational meeting on Sunday the 9th, Marcus Middleton is now president elect.

Despite the lingering uncertainties due to Covid, **all committees are being re-animated and encouraged to find new, different, and innovative ways to be the church and do the work of the church whether or not we are inside the building. We want our imaginations and visions of God's Kingdom on earth to fly!** For a list of the standing and *ad hoc* committees, please contact Marilyn or Marcia. If you wish to serve on a committee or just attend a few meetings to assess your "fit", please call any council member and we will get you hooked up with the date and time of the next meeting. Committee descriptions and duties were distributed for council members to review and offer comments or additions changes or deletions at the February meeting.

The Mission and Vision Committee is being reconvened; it will be led by Pastor Branden.

Review of the membership roster pursuant to our constitution at C12.08 is being commenced by Jane, our financial secretary; she will give a preliminary report at the March meeting.

Pastor Branden has invited the Synod Gift and Estate Planner to assist us in fine-tuning our gift and estate gift policies and procedures.

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 35 households earned \$83.82 rewards for St. Paul.

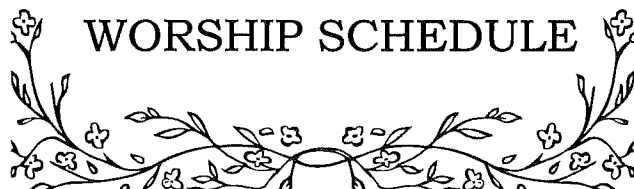
Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for March Ray is Sunday, February 20, 2022. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (stpaulww@comcast.net), on a flash drive or in writing.



Melba Bartley
Connie Ganger
Lavina Kodet
MaryAnn Meyer

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

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 a.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 2ND

7:00 p.m. Worship

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

7:00 p.m. Worship

On-line worship opportunities

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. 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 stpaul Lutheranph.com under the "Worship services" tab.

Watch the mid-week email updates for information on the virtual social hour once we return to in person services.