

From the Pastor's Desk

As I write this Dale and I have only had our Christmas tree and decorations down and put away for one week. The house feels empty – physically and spiritually and emotionally. And yet, it is time to begin looking towards Lent – the holy journey to the cross and resurrection. Our theme for Lent this year will be “Holy Vessels – a Season of Recovery”. Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness–body, mind, and spirit–like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Beach glass offers us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process. We are blessed to have this symbol so close to us here in Port Huron. The symbols of water, sand and beach glass will shape our season of Lent as we look to the cross. I invite you to join us for worship online on Sunday mornings at 9:30 (or whenever is convenient for you) on Facebook or on our website stpaulslutheranph.com under the “Worship Services” tab.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie

Help Wanted

Do you have a passion for video editing and/or technology? Pastor Bonnie is looking for someone to assist her in creating/editing recordings for worship. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Bonnie at pastorbonniek@gmail.com for more information.

Lent-in-a-bag

Our Advent-in-a-bag kits were such a hit we have decided to create 25 Lent-in-a-bag kits. They will be filled with a devotional, ashes for Ash Wednesday, symbols of Lent and much more. They are designed to help you experience the season of Lent more deeply and fully. They are NOT just for families with small children. You can pick up your Lent-in-a-bag on Sunday, Feb. 14 from 11:30am – 1pm or Tuesday, Feb. 16 from 4-6pm at the front door of the church. They will be available to the first 25 households that come. Thank you to Lisa Schleicher for her Thrivent Action Team Grant that funded this special project, Kathy Strauss who bound the devotionals and Lucy Fabick who filled all the bags.



ASH WEDNESDAY **February 17, 2021**

Ash Wednesday is a time of naming brokenness. As we enter the season of Lent, we commit to enter also into a season of healing and recovery that requires the naming of what has been shattered as a first step. We take “the yoke” of responsibility as disciples of Jesus to be the Body of Christ—a body of those who need healing and offer healing in the world. The promise of Jesus is that he is with us in our weariness and burdens.

Expert physicians and public health advisors are strongly recommending that churches not do imposition of ashes – even drive thru style – this year. Therefore, our online service will not include imposition of ashes. Our Lent-in-a-bag kits do contain “ashes to go” with explicit instructions on how to do this at home. We invite you to join us for online worship on Facebook at 7pm or on our website, stpaulslutheranph.com under the “Worship Services” tab, as we begin the season of Lent.

Many of you have received your Star words for 2021. Pastor Bonnie still has quite a few available. Please contact her, if you would like to get one. She encourages you to let the words speak to you, to imagine how God might be working through this simple word to speak to you during the coming year. Several of our small groups, including Council, have chosen a Star word to guide them in 2021. Pastor Bonnie can't wait to see how God will use these words through us! The word she received was "SILENCE". Hmmmm... 2021 will certainly be interesting ☺



**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 on 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.

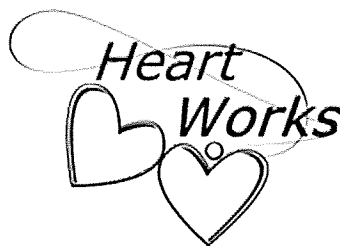
You can also call 800-847-4836 and Thrivent will assist you.

Living Water Camp

The Board of Directors met recently to discuss camp for the 2021 season. They have made the decision to not open this summer. The retreats usually held in March for middle school and high school youth will also not be happening. These were not easy decisions, but they feel that this is the best and safest way to respond to the continuing pandemic. Please hold the camp and all the youth who will be deeply impacted by this decision in your prayers.

Midweek Worship during Lent

It has been our tradition for many years to gather during Lent on Wednesday evenings for a soup supper and worship using Holden Evening Prayer. Last March, as we met for the last time in our sanctuary, we recorded Holden Evening Prayer. Our technology has improved dramatically since last March. A new recording of Holden Evening Prayer is being prepared. You are invited to watch it each Wednesday evening at 7pm beginning February 24 through March 24 on Facebook or our website – stpaulslutheranph.com under "Worship Services". Your soup supper is optional!



HEART WORKS is inviting you to what is becoming our Annual Knitting Day. This year will be a little different,

however, because we will be meeting virtually. The date is Saturday, March 27th, and we will be meeting via Zoom from 10 until noon, with Pastor Bonnie as our Zoom hostess. You may work on a project for your own home or family, or work on a project such as a prayer shawl, hat or scarf to donate to Heart Works...either is fine. Our intent is for us to enjoy FELLOWSHIP and share ideas with others who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or looming. Because we are meeting virtually, I won't be able to share patterns, or extra looms, knitting needles, or crochet hooks, but I will be passing out Red Heart yarn to each knitter who signs up by March 20th. If you are able to attend our Knitting Day, please register by emailing me at kstrauss48@gmail.com. Pastor Bonnie will send you a Zoom link a day or two ahead. We look forward to "seeing" you on March 27th.

Loving...

is the council star word for the year 2021.
What a word for this year's council.

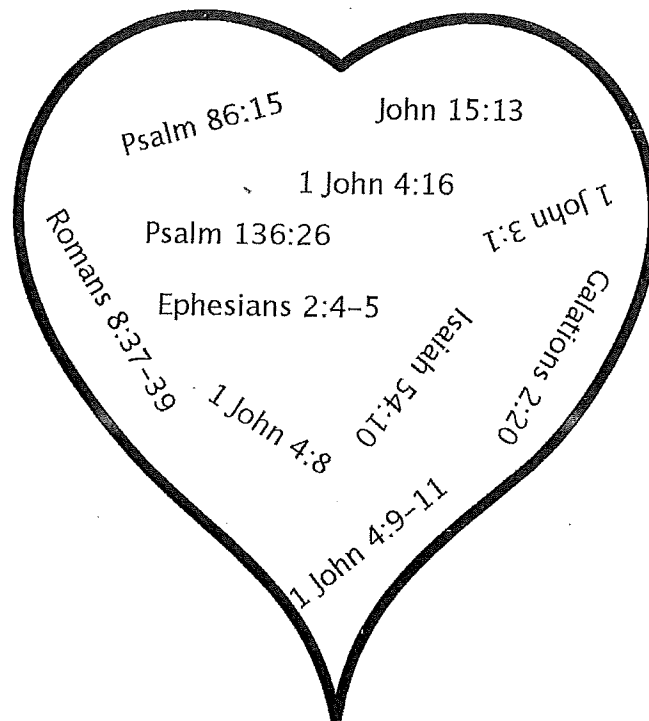
Below are some verses that can help
direct our thoughts.

This past year has been a year like no other year in a long time. A divisive year, a year of unrest, and a year of panic due to covid. This is a year that has brought many changes into our lives. This year has brought shortages, isolation, pain and suffering, fear, and changes in the ways we meet and worship. Most likely we will continue to see more of these effects on our lives.

The Bible has a lot to say about love, and love is used 551 times in the NIV, New International Version, and when we consider the different forms of the word I am sure it is an even greater number. The word giving is used 2,172 times in the King James version. What we have we give or another way to say this is, we can't give what we don't have.

Love, loving, charity, care, caring, kindness, concern, and helpfulness are words which may express how we show and give love.

As the council reflects on the star word for this year, our question should be , "How has God's love for me enabled me to express His love to those around me?".



Rich Cochrell

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
Thank you, thank you, for your generous
Christmas gifts. This congregation gives
freely and fully, not counting the cost.

Bless you all,

John Lusk

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 11, 2021

Star Word - *Loving*

Mission and Vision - With all that has changed due to covid 19, the Mission and Vision team will meet to review the newly developed Mission and Vision statement.

Boiler system update - We are waiting to hear from Watson Bros. as to when they will begin work.

Mt. Zion Grant - Don Strauss will again coordinate grant requests. Grants must be submitted to Don by March 1, 2021.

Thrivent dollar designations to St. Paul - Council will review where the money will be designated for use.

Technology Committee - As we rely more and more on technology, the council will be working to develop a technology committee. If you are interested in being a part of the technology committee, please talk to Pastor Bonnie or Rich Cochrill.

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!

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!



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, stpaulwlutheranph.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!

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



February Baptism Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| CHRISTINA HENDERSON | 02/12 |
| IVAN SMITH | 02/17 |
| DIANE MERKAU | 02/23 |

FEBRUARY Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| BRENNAN, RYAN | 02/02 |
| COLLINGWOOD, DORENE | 02/02 |
| MASSEY, DAVID | 02/03 |
| MERKAU, JEREMIAH | 02/06 |
| PREIMESBERGER, ANN | 02/07 |
| TAYLOR, KATRINA | 02/09 |
| ROUSEY, HEATHER | 02/10 |
| NIKEL, LILLIAN | 02/11 |
| SANDERSON, JIM | 02/11 |
| GOLUBINSKI JR, THEODORE | 02/12 |
| STONE, BRIAN | 02/12 |
| JOHNSON, LARRY | 02/13 |
| WILSON, JACK | 02/13 |
| SLOAN, SHELLY | 02/15 |
| THURSTON, NANCY | 02/15 |
| THOMPSON, CAYLEE | 02/16 |
| FORTUSHNIAK, LEANNE | 02/17 |
| WESTON, JOEL | 02/17 |
| FORSTNER, JUDITH | 02/18 |
| THOMPSON, GARLIN | 02/18 |
| GOTTSCHALK, WILLIAM | 02/19 |
| DUNCAN, GREGORY | 02/20 |
| COLLINGWOOD, CODI | 02/21 |
| WESTON, CANDACE | 02/22 |
| BARKER, RICHARD | 02/23 |
| LEWANDOWSKI, BOBI JO | 02/23 |
| STUEWER, ALEXANDER | 02/24 |
| BRENNAN, BRENNAN | 02/25 |
| MARONE, MICHAEL | 02/25 |

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| DRESSER, STEVE & SUE | 02/13 |
| HUDSON, DELL & PEGGY | 02/14 |
| WILSON, TOM & SUE | 02/19 |
| MORRIS, RICHARD & LAURIE | 02/26 |

Dear St. Paul Family,

Thank you so much for the extremely generous Christmas gift! I am both humbled and extremely appreciative! I miss seeing everyone's faces so much, and mostly I miss the sound of a whole church singing! I hope this new year quickly brings about time together in worship! Thank you again!

Amy <3



With the recent US Postal Service delays we have experienced in mailing our monthly newsletter, we are asking members to submit their email address so that the newsletter can also be

sent by email. Please submit your email address to the church office, stpaulww@comcast.net.

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.

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

The December-February 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.

Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3, ... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
15 1 2 3

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

SECOND CLUE: 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

THIRD CLUE: 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

Who is this person? _____

Answer: Moses

Blue Water Global Mission Team Mission Spotlight:

Mark and Kaycee Thompson

The Blue Water Global Mission Team would like to highlight one of the awesome global missions that we have been able to support financially with funds that were raised and dedicated for this purpose.

Mark and Kaycee Thompson are missionaries through Assembly of God Church. They were called to spend 2 years in Kyrgyzstan, Russia establishing a Christian church. This is a monumental task as only 4% of Kyrgyz people have ever heard of Jesus. Mark and Kaycee are supporting the underground Christian church in street evangelism and leadership development. Their plans were changed a bit due to Covid restrictions and they served initially in Istanbul, Turkey beginning on September 30, 2020. However, their prayers were answered and they arrived in Kyrgyzstan on January 10, 2021. They are amazing Christians relying fully on God to lead their mission work. Please pray for them. If you are interested in learning more about their mission or providing financial support you can email them at: mark@valleyhiker.net

Thank you all for your continued support of the Blue Water Global Mission Team and enabling us to support amazing mission work like this.



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 36 households earned \$95.00 rewards for St. Paul.

Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for the March Ray is Sunday, February 14, 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
Beth Radtke



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.



**Lent begins with
Ash Wednesday
on February 17**

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 stpaulwlutheranph.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.