

From the Pastor's Desk

Our congregation has been working with LEAD (Living Every day As Disciples) for the past year. They are part of the Synod's Rise-Up Campaign and the benefits we, as a congregation, receive from participating in the campaign last year. It was through LEAD that our Tune-In team was coached, attended workshops and met twice a month. They guided us through the listening process – listening to God, listening to the members of St. Paul and listening to our neighbors. It was a very fruitful experience for the entire Tune-In team and promises to lead to new relationships with our neighbors. Members of the team will be sharing their ideas during Temple Talks in worship this month.

LEAD is offering a Congregational Council Intensive course on-line for four weeks. The officers of our council and myself are registered and excited about the opportunity to learn more about effective congregational council leadership. According to LEAD the focus for this intensive course includes: "Opening the Heart: Goals for Change", "Deepening the Soul: Courageous Faith", "Expanding the Mind: Lead to Learn" and "Building Strength: Sparking Generosity". The course will help us to set the most crucial goals for our congregation – goals that are grounded in faith, vulnerability and awareness. We will look at our council as a worshiping community within our congregation inviting us to try out faith practices, build courage and shift behaviors. We will experiment with new partnerships the Tune-In team has discovered. We will also learn to take strategic risks enabling us to multiply our capacity and our resources. Our classes begin February 12 and continue weekly through March 5. We will be joined by other congregational councils around the country via our computers. Please keep the officers of our congregational council and myself in your prayers as we learn together.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie



A Note from the Treasurer

Bills and payroll are scheduled to be paid February 14th & 28th. Please submit paperwork at least one day prior to these dates in order for checks to be issued.

Church Council

Jim Weston, Council President
Linda Barker, President Elect
Cathy Stuewer, Council Secretary
Diane Merkau, Treasurer
Paige Koglin, Financial Secretary
Donna Sanderson, Asst. Financial Secretary
Ruth Reim, Financial Representative
Laurie Morris, Evangelism Rep
Amy Lutz, Parish Education Rep & Chair
Chris Matts, Properties Rep & Chair
Kay Schnur, Stewardship Rep
Sue Wilson, Worship Reps
Alex Stuewer, Youth Representative
Heather Rousey, Youth Team Chair



Epiphany Star Words

During my sermon the first Sunday in Epiphany I passed out "Star" words to everyone. Each card was different. I encouraged folks to let the words speak to them, to imagine how God might be working through this simple word to speak to them during the coming year. At our council meeting in January the council choose a "Star" word. The word they choose was "TOLERANCE". I can't wait to see how God will use this word through us! The word I received was "SHARING". If you didn't receive a "Star" word and would still like one, please let me know – I have a few left.

~Pastor Bonnie

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS January 14, 2019

Well it was definitely an interesting start for the new council for our first meeting. The council's STAR WORD this year is TOLERANCE. Being tolerant with other people's beliefs, habits and people who are not like you.

Thanks to all for the financial support for 2018 church year. We would like to thank the youth for the Sunday School church service this year. It was greatly received by all. Thanks to all that helped with the hot water heater replacement.

We were updated by the Tune In Committee with their recommendations on three projects best fit for St Paul. The projects are for children, parents and senior citizens and the council is in full support. This ends the Tune In Committee's responsible and we look forward to the next phase of the lead program to implement these projects.

There was support by the church council to start a Good Samaritan fund at the church to help people in need. We will be asking people to help on this committee. Our Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2019 will be going to support this Good Samaritan program. This will help get this program started and well on its way.

We had a call from the bank concerning our Sunday School bank account because of lack of activity. There was support to close this account and redeposit the money into the Restricted Equity Youth/Education account.

Choir Director Position Available

Directing our choir is a wonderful opportunity to share your gift of music to God's glory. Do you know someone that would be interested? Please let Sue Wilson or Pastor Bonnie know.

SUPER BOWL Get in the Game

You don't have to be an at home spectator to be in the game.

The *Get In The Game Men's Conference* is February 2, 2019, always Superbowl weekend which is easy to remember. The time is 8AM-3:30PM at Sandusky Elementary School. Christ Swanson, Shon Hart, and Willie McQueen.

The cost is only \$23.00 for the day with a tailgate lunch and giveaways.

OH!! I'll need someone to drive my truck home as I'll be riding my new Harley Davidson Motorcycle which I will have won in the giveaway.

SWEET

Let me know-
Rich Cochrell

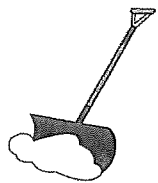
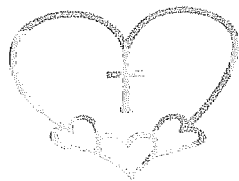
Bill Gottschalk's Retirement



Bill stepped in to the role of "temporary" Choir Director 2 1/2 years ago. He has done an awesome job of choosing music, directing the choir at every rehearsal and on Sundays. We are grateful for his generous service to the people of God at St. Paul as we worship together. Bill has missed singing in the back row with the choir. After the choir's inspiring Christmas Cantata in December, Bill made the difficult decision to retire from directing the choir so he can return to the back row and sing. He loved directing the choir and will miss that role. The choir will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

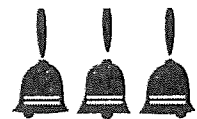
High School Youth Valentine Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Our high school youth will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on February 9 from 5:00-7:00pm. The menu includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Tickets can be purchased on January 27 and February 3 after church from Rich Cochrill, Heather Rousey, and Amy Lutz. Tickets are \$8 if purchased before the dinner and \$9 at the door. Funds raised will go to support youth who are going on a mission trip to Copperhill, Tennessee in June 2019.



Please share your gift of shoveling by signing up with a partner for a week this winter. There are lots of activities here at church and groups using our

building during the week so our sidewalks need to be shoveled and salted each time it snows! There is a snow blower available for a heavier snowfall. Please sign up in the narthex.



Handbell Choir

Bell players are needed. No experience is necessary! Join us on Wednesday @ 6 pm. All are welcome.



Food Trucks at St. Paul

June 20th

September 19th



HEART WORKS is inviting you to come KNIT, CROCHET, or LOOM with us!!!

In addition to our regular first Tuesday of the month knitting day, Heart Works will be meeting on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th. Bring your knitting needles, crochet hook, or loom, and join us. Dig out that project you tucked away before the holidays, or come start something new. If you are working on a project for your own home or family, that's fine. If you are working on a project to donate to Heart Works, that's fine as well. We will have patterns and samples available to show what Heart Works members create and share with the community. We will also have yarn and a limited number of needles or looms for you to use. Our intent is for you to enjoy FELLOWSHIP and share ideas with others who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or looming. We will meet from 10am until 1pm, with a light lunch served at noon. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex, so please let us know that you are coming. We look forward to seeing you on February 16th.

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!

We are still **collecting** and returning **pop cans and bottles** to raise money to **support our high school youth**. Please place any cans or bottles in the designated box in the entryway of the church, and the youth will return them regularly. Thank you for supporting youth ministry!

End of the Year Financial Report

At the end of 2018, the financial records of the congregation show that the donations not only covered the benevolence, ministry, operations, and payroll expenses, but there is a small surplus that can be set aside for the implementation of the goals set for the 2019 improvement campaign.

Below is information showing the income and expenses for last year.

2018 Donations

General Offering	\$ 167,111.96
Special Benevolent Offering	2,751.50
GWIP Donations	21,795.00
Memorials	310.00
Restricted Offerings	5,674.36
Thrivent Choice \$	2,799.00
Interest	82.25
Other	2,874.13
Total Offerings	\$ 203,398.20

2018 Expenses

Benevolence	\$ 18,384.99
Ministry	9,417.09
GWIP	21,795.00
Operations	24,251.72
Payroll/Benefits	119,139.62
Miscellaneous	2,903.38
Total Expenses	\$ 195,891.80

The congregation continues to be truly generous which makes possible opportunities most congregations only dream to implement.

Benevolent gifts include Southeast Michigan Synod, World Hunger, Mid-City, & Habitat (8% of the general offering) plus local ministry (exceeding the 2% designated) to Hurricane Relief, Haiti Missions, Care Bag Movement, Habitat Nail Sale, Eastern Michigan Food Bank, & U of M Campus Ministry. In addition to the cash donations, the congregation has supported Houston with books, garden produce to Mid-City (6860#), pet supplies to Harbor Impact, & Christmas gifts to families through the Angel Tree project of the Salvation Army.

In January, individuals pledged generously to support the Synod's Rise-Up Campaign and continue to complete those pledges in 2019 & 2020.

The ministry grows through worship, education, and outreach to the community. Soon the implementation of the Tune-In findings will begin as funds become available in 2019. The

upgrade of the technology and building expansion possibilities will also become real in this year with your continued financial support.

As ministry, programs, and events increase, the operation costs are met monthly and kept low through conscientious use of the building.

The staff continues to serve faithfully, providing a powerful ministry at the local level, and the wages, salaries, and benefits are paid every two weeks. At Christmas, the staff received additional gifts through your generosity in the amount of \$1,534.

The mortgage, once \$340,000, has been reduced to \$92,562.53 and with continued monthly support, it is often possible to pay additional money on the principal.

It is an exciting time to serve as treasurer, when not only the basic needs are met, but building upgrades are possible, staff can be shown not only appreciation, but given raises, and dreams and goals can become possible.

If you have questions concerning the finances, please ask.

Grateful for your support & God's guidance,
Diane Merkau

High School Mission/High Adventure Trip – June 29- July 6, 2019

This year St. Paul's High School Youth will be going to Copperhill, TN to do a combination of three and a half days of mission work and a day and a half of high adventure fun! Copperhill camp is located in Tennessee, just miles from Georgia and North Carolina, allowing for service projects in all three states. Our Youth group has the opportunity to reach out and minister in these areas where closed businesses and industries have left people with little means to provide for their families. Mission trip work focuses on home repair and renovation; however, it is the relationships formed with those served that will be remembered forever. There will be a variety of ways we can support our youth in the coming months – through prayer, financial support and encouragement.




Special THANK YOU'S




You are incredible!

Thank you for your generosity from the Stewardship committee! Thank you for using your time, talents and treasures to help others: helping in the stewardship drive, helping in Christmas donations, helping in the Advent and Christmas programs and so much more! Together we are making a difference!

A special Thank You to all men, women and children who helped out with the many projects completed in 2018.
Property Committee

Thank You  Thank you to everyone who supported us through Connie's illness and passing. You may have offered a hug and a prayer. You may have sent a card or five of them. You may have come to visit as well. We appreciate every one of you and treasure your friendship. St. Paul's isn't just a church, we are family!
for your kindness

God's Blessings,
The Golubinski Families

 I want to thank you very much for the generous gift that council and the congregation gave me for Christmas. It is such a pleasure to share the blessing of music with everyone.
Thank you
Sandy Oswell



A **huge thank you** to the council and the people of God at St. Paul for the very generous Christmas gift. I wouldn't be able to do it without our wonderful and dedicated choir.

Bill Gottschalk , Interim Choir Director

Dear St. Paul family,

Thank you so so much for your extremely generous Christmas gift. As usual, it's not expected, but very much appreciated. It's my joy and honor to serve the congregation, and I'm so appreciative of the love and support you all give Lucy and I.
Most sincere thanks,

Amy Fabick



I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the congregation of St. Paul for your VERY generous Christmas gift.

I am blessed to serve the congregation as secretary.

Diane Biskner

Thanks to the special people who assisted me in my time of need.

Chris Matts

1) 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 2018 to May 2019. Our NPO number is RK460. **Registration is online only.** Last quarter 32 households earned \$109.06 in rewards for St. Paul.

2) Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for the March Ray is Sunday, February 17, 2019. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (stpaulww@comcast.net), on a disk (IBM Format) or in writing.

3) Please make sure that if you need to borrow something from the church that you check the rental book and make sure no one else has reserved that item. If it is available, it needs to be signed out with the church office. The rental book is on top of the filing cabinet in the church office.

WHEN DROPPING ITEMS OFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE: PLEASE leave a note indicating for whom the items are intended. Thank you!

*Church Secretary Hours:
Monday – Friday 9am to 1 pm*

Diane,
Church
Secretary



ASH
WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday worship service will be
Wednesday, March 6th at 7 p.m.