

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is so good to be with you all here in Port Huron. Everyone has been so warm to my family and I. We feel blessed beyond measure. As I get started here at St Paul, I would like to share a little about myself.

I am from the great state of Michigan. Originally from Detroit, I went to middle and high school in Detroit and also Macomb County. After high school, I attended Wayne State University in which I graduated with my bachelor's in Social Work.

It was during college that I worked at Stony Lake Lutheran Camp as a counselor, program director, and co-summer director. It was there, working with kids and meeting pastors, that I realized that maybe I could be a Pastor.

After college, I went to Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. There, I worked as a chaplain at Nationwide Children's Hospital and First English Lutheran Church. At Nationwide, I learned how to walk alongside people during hard times and at First English, I learned about working with people in the community.

After seminary, I took my first call at St Philip Lutheran Church in Trenton, Michigan. At St Philip, I had many experiences that helped me to grow as a leader.

It was during this time that I met my now wife Alonna and her two daughters, Lilly and Eve. As we grew closer and planned to get married, we decided that I would move up to her neck of the woods in St Clair as we started our family. This past October, I was blessed to be called as the Pastor to this church and I couldn't be any happier.

I looked forward to meeting you all and being part of what God is doing and will do in Port Huron.

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.



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

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS December 13, 2021

Technology - A committee will be appointed to continue determining the needs for St. Paul and developing outcomes to improve these needs. If you know of someone who may be interested please call Rich Cochrill at 810-633-9404 or the church office.

Properties Chair - Ivan Smith was appointed as Property Chair and approved by council. If there are concerns or a need for physical arrangements for a meeting or gathering, please give Ivan ample notice so arrangements can be made.

Nominations - There are open council positions for President Elect and Treasurer. If you know of anyone who may be interested please call the church office or Linda Barker, nominations chairperson.



Another huge THANK YOU to the knitters and loomers who have donated hats and scarves for Heart Works to share with those who will need them this winter. 100 hat and scarf sets, plus another 14 hats were donated to Mid City Nutrition, and 46 hats for youth were donated to Kids in Distress. 25 additional sets were donated to the St. Clair County library. AMAZING!! Thank you so very much for your generosity!!

Kathy Strauss, Heart Works

# SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**JANUARY 9, 2022** 

Immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Service

The purpose of the meeting is to fill the council position of President Elect.

### **Biblical resolutions**

Hold firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

**P**ray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

**P**etition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10) **Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

**N**otice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)

**E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5) **W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yearn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
Exercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16)

### **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.



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, stpaullutheranph.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!

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.



Thank you to Carol and Marcus Middleton for the generous gift of three air purifiers for the sanctuary.

This gift was made in honor of Dale and Pastor Bonnie Klos.



If you wish to sponsor Altar Flowers for January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 or February 6, 13, 20, 27 please fill out the form below and put it in with the offering or email the office, <a href="mailto:stpaulww@comcast.net">stpaulww@comcast.net</a> and state which Sunday you would like to sponsor and who the flowers are in memory/honor of. The cost of the flowers is now \$25 per Sunday sponsored. The price reflects the first increase in cost since 1998. Please include your payment in with your regular offering with the amount listed under the "other" line and "flowers" written after the word other or if you don't have offering envelopes, in an envelope indicating that the payment is for flowers.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

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