

From the Pastor's Desk

My "Star" word this year is Education. I have been reflecting on how I am being educated this year and how I can educate others. Through your generosity with my continuing "education" fund, in January I went to the Holy Land for an amazing, life changing pilgrimage. I shared photos, stories, food and souvenirs each Sunday between services during Lent. As the weeks went by more and more people expressed interest in going to the Holy Land themselves. So... I have arranged a Holy Land Tour for our congregation and friends of our congregation May 6-15, 2019! We will be traveling from Detroit to Tel Aviv. I am very excited about all the sights we will be seeing (some new ones for me) and all the people we will be meeting on our trip. The package includes round-trip airfare; all-inclusive accommodations (4 star hotels); all meals; admissions into all places of interest; nine days of sightseeing in a modern, air conditioned, private bus; English speaking, Christian guide, and more! The cost of the tour is \$3290 based on double occupancy in each room. There is an additional single supplement of \$750 for a private room. Brochures are available in the Narthex. The highlights or itinerary for our pilgrimage are included in the brochure. This tour will be available to the first 40 people that register. I am thrilled to be able to share this "educational" opportunity with the people of God at St. Paul and our friends. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at pastorbonniek@gmail.com or my cell number 608-397-1975 or at the church. I can't wait to see how we will experience "Education" together!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie



A Note from the Treasurer

Bills and payroll are scheduled to be paid July 5th and July 19th. Please submit paperwork at least one day prior to these dates in order for checks to be issued.

Church Council

Julie Lusk, Council President
Jim Weston, President Elect
Cathy Stuewer, Council Secretary
Diane Merkau, Treasurer
Sue Atfield, Financial Secretary
Paige Koglin, Asst. Financial Secretary
Don Strauss, Financial Representative
Laurie Morris, Evangelism Rep
Amy Lutz, Parish Education Rep & Chair
Chris Matts, Properties Rep & Chair
Kay Schnur, Stewardship Rep
Cindy Duncan & Amy Fabick, Worship Reps
Alex Stuewer, Youth Representative
Rich Cochrell, Youth Team Chair



**Beginning the week of
May 27 thru the week
of September 2,
the office will be
closed on Monday.
The office will be open
Tuesday -Friday
8 am to 1 pm.**

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS June 11, 2018

As we begin the summer months, Council continues to meet, discuss the “business” of our church and determine how we can best serve the congregation and our community. Each of the committees is an integral part of the St. Paul faith community.

We are in a positive financial position at this time and are thankful to each of you for sharing your monetary gifts, along with your time and talents. Stewardship is participating in the Stewardship for All Seasons program and will be sharing information on this in the coming months. Properties reports that the organ has been repaired. Worship & Music has been receiving positive feedback about the summer sermon series of Rob Bell videos and group discussions. Our Youth are busy preparing to attend the National Youth Gathering in Houston. They will be leaving June 25 – please keep them and their chaperones in your prayers for safe travels and an incredible experience. We also have youth attending confirmation camp in early July and we ask that you pray for them as well.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in our Summer of Service projects – find a project that interests you and, in this small way, help St. Paul serve the needs of our community. A list of possible ideas is on the table in the narthex. Form your own team or join one that is listed.

Thank you for your support of our church and the opportunities we have to grow and share our faith.

There is still time to team up
and serve!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Summer of Service teams. Please list the members of your service team. A team can be a related family or a group of brothers and sisters in Christ of any ages. A few teams have signed up already, including families, the Splash youth, and the confirmation youth. Some of the service activities people are teaming up to do include donating blood, working at Harbor Impact Ministry, packing back packs for shelters and Samaritas, and various jobs around the church. There are many other service opportunities available. The goal is for each team to complete three service activities together this summer. There is a list of possible service opportunities as well as a list of tasks that require an individual team to complete. Please help yourself to a copy of the list of service opportunities. Write your team down on the list of tasks that require an individual team if your team is able to complete the activity. This is a great way to fulfill our mission to Come, Grow In Christ, and Go and Serve.

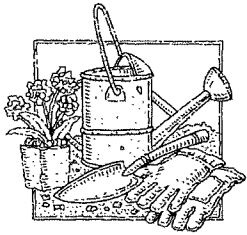
Please email pictures of your team serving to meghargrave@yahoo.com At the end of the summer we will celebrate all the ways in which the members of St. Paul served in our community throughout the summer.



*October 5-6
Women's Retreat*

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!



GARDEN VOLUNTEERS – It's that time of year again to use your green thumb to help **maintain the herb garden and geranium beds**. This includes weeding, clipping the grass, and watering at least once a week.

Volunteers will be signing up for two weeks at a time beginning with the week of June 3rd. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Fleming at 984-4652.



Beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 27) through Labor Day weekend (Sept. 2) we move to ONE worship service at 9:30 am. There is no Sunday School during the summer. We look forward to gathering as the body of Christ together in one community and meeting some folks from the "other" worship service.

Mid-City is cancelled for Tuesday, July 24th.



SAVE THE DATE

Our next food truck is
Wednesday,
August 22nd.

Watch for a signup sheet.

Men's Cancer Support Group will not meet in July or August.

KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT -

The nominating committee may be looking at you; the committee is Jim Sanderson, Gwen Kirkendall, Bill Gottschalk, Shelly Sloan. **No excuses** - we are coming after you to try a position on council. **POSITIONS OPEN:** *Present Elect / Council Secretary / Asst. Financial Secretary / Financial Representative / Evangelism/ Worship & Music/Youth Representative / Youth Team.* Pick one, Try one. Do you know how your church donations are spent? Who is paid, who is a volunteer? How do the jobs around the church get done? Find out join the church council. THANKS FOR THINKING ABOUT IT.

Jim your brother in Christ
(My 2018 word - perceptiveness)

MT. ZION GRANT

We have been approved for a grant of \$850.00 for our August 22nd Food Truck and \$250.00 for the Summer of Service project. This grant is made in memory of Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, which faithfully ministered to its members and to the community of Northeast Detroit for 73 years. It is an expression of the continuing ministry and faith of the former Mt. Zion Community.

FOOD TRUCK REPORT 5/19/18

A huge thank you to the 37 volunteers who helped with the food truck on May 19th. We had 52 families come to get food for 192 individuals. Twelve families came to a food truck for the first time and 23 families were over the age of 60. The excess food was donated to Harbor Impact for distribution to more people. The total amount of food that was received was 6,921 pounds.

We received a \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team Grant toward the \$850.00 cost of this food truck. Thank you to all who made donations for the food truck.

TUNE IN TEAM UPDATE

Our Tune In Team has been meeting nearly every other week. As we continue to listen to God and pray on our own, we are working on training exercises when we meet that help us listen to each other, recognizing who we are and how we became that person. Life experiences, how we were raised and where we have lived are just some of things that have formed our belief system and how we look at life.

A meaningful passage in our guidebook states, "Listening well builds trust and relationships are built on trust. Relationships cultivate possibilities." Each of us believes there are so many possibilities available to our congregation to help us grow in our faith and to share that faith and God's love with others.

We are moving towards a congregational assessment that each of you will be asked to be a part of later this summer. In the meantime, we ask for your continued prayers for this group and what we hope will be a meaningful experience for our entire congregation.

Thank you.

New Bible Study

Pastor Bonnie's "Star" word for 2018 is *Education*. In living out what this word might mean, she will be starting a series of Bible studies this month that will continue throughout the rest of the year. Many of us are enjoying the spiritual short films by Rob Bell this summer. Rob Bell also wrote several books including, *What is the Bible?* This seems to be a good place to start... asking the question, "What is the Bible?" Join Pastor Bonnie for a six week class – July 18, Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 7pm as we explore this question and read Rob Bell's book together. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. Books will be ordered for everyone on July 8 so don't delay in signing up. The cost of the book is covered by our Adult Education Fund.

Save the Dates-

Blue Water Conference Churches-

Sunday, August 19 at the pavilion at Columbus County Park, which is in the southwest part of St Clair County (east of Richmond), 2 miles north of Gratiot, on Bauman Road. The pavilion is reserved from 3:00 p.m. Tentative plans include a "potluck picnic" at 4 or 4:30 p.m., followed by *Holden Evening Prayer* at 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. More information with specifics will follow. This is an opportunity for all of us to gather to worship and grow in our fellowship in the conference, using the combined talents/gifts of our congregations.

Neighborhood Corn Roast –

Saturday, August 25 4-8pm. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletin and announcements about ways YOU can help support this annual event to thank our neighbors and share a meal (including corn from our garden!) together, play games and hear awesome music!

New York Times Bestseller

What Is the Bible?

How an Ancient Library
of Poems, Letters, and
Stories Can Transform
the Way You Think and
Feel About Everything

Rob Bell

New York Times Bestselling Author of *Love Wins*

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 2017 to May 2018. Our NPO number is 90228. **Registration is online only.** Last quarter St. Paul earned \$102.28 in rewards.

2) Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for the August Ray is Sunday, July 15, 2018. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (stpaulww@comcast.net), on a disk (IBM Format) or in writing.

4) Please make sure that if you need to borrow something from the church that you check the 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. I will leave the rental book on top of the filing cabinet in the church office so people know where it is.

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

*Church Secretary Hours:
Tuesday – Friday 8am to 1 pm*



The office will be closed July 12 & 13

New Member Orientation

We will be offering a new member orientation on Sunday, July 29, from 11am until 2pm with a light lunch being served for folks interested in becoming a member of St. Paul. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Talk with Pastor Bonnie if you have any questions. Please help encourage friends, neighbors, co-workers to check out St. Paul and invite them to join us. On Sunday, August 26 we will welcome new members to St. Paul.