



Change

For the most part, I've usually been the kind of person who has claimed to always been comfortable with change. I've told myself that it was no big deal and that it was a part of life. "Bring it on" I said. It should be easy to handle change.

Then I became a step-parent.

I learned that change isn't always as easy as I made it out to be. There are meltdowns, changes in plans, and just throwing the schedule in the trash. There are apologies for being late, big feelings, and a reminder that things are not going back to how they used to be. And I've come to see that this is okay.

Some change is good. However, I've come to see that it can be very hard to go through that change. And even though it is hard, that doesn't make the change any less good. If anything, it helps you realize you are experiencing life and everything that goes with it.

Our savior Jesus tried to lead his people through change. He had a vision for the world that was magnificent. Food for people and care for the orphans and widows. But people resisted. It was hard for Jesus, but that doesn't make the change any less good and holy.

Friends, in our 21st century world, things are changing more rapidly than ever before. There are changes in our families, neighborhoods, jobs, and even our churches. These could be good changes or ones that are not very helpful. I'm sure that it can be hard to discern that and even harder to work through the new change.

I have no advice for you other than you are not alone. Things are going to be hard, but you will be okay. Our Savior went through change all the way to death and resurrection. And with his resurrection, we

have the space and freedom to discern change in our lives.

So friends, know that the risen Christ is with you as you discern what change is good for you. The risen Christ is with you as you work through change. The risen Christ is with you as you love yourself and your neighbor through it.
You are not alone.

Pastor Branden

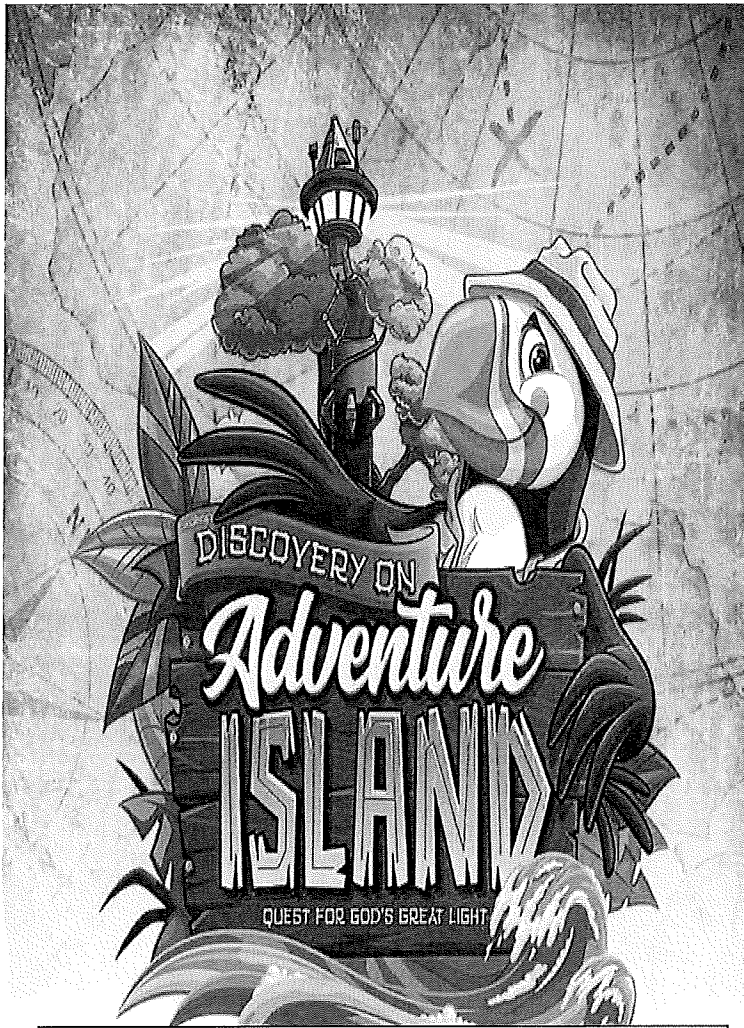
In addition to considerations of COVID, **return to in-person communion** is dependent on additional volunteers for the Altar Guild which prepares, sets up and cleans up communion. At the moment Judy Halamka is handling this for the disposable communion cups, but full communion, as we have historically taken it, requires more work and, therefore, more volunteers. Please speak with Pr. Branden, Judy or any member of council if you can serve the church this way.



Congratulations to our
High School graduates:

**Lucy Fabick
and Amelia Stuewer**

Both are graduating from Port Huron Northern High School in June. We wish both girls many blessings in the future. They were honored at the 8:00 service on June 19th.



Join us for Vacation Bible School

August 1st-5th, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Ages: 4 year olds-Adult

VBS is a bit different this year, as we would like to encourage all **adults** (even those without children) to participate! Light dinner will be served for all from 5:00-5:30. We then encourage **adults** to participate in Adult bible study while **children** participate in bible stories, crafts, science, games, songs, and more! **We could use more volunteers**, so look for sign-up in Narthex or register online at stpaulslutheranph.com. Perhaps you would like to **volunteer just one or two nights** and attend the bible study on other nights. Please just be sure and sign-up or contact: Leann Smith: 810-488-5829 or leann57@iwarph.net.

In order to have an accurate count for the dinner, please sign up online or in the Narthex. **Invite friends, and relatives. T-shirts are also available but you must register by July 18th to receive a t-shirt.**

OUR DAILY BREAD

The June/July/August edition of "Our Daily Bread Devotion" is available for you to pick up. They are in the slots under the mailboxes located in the church office hallway. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a copy. There are also some available in the Neighborhood Box.



Food Truck

FOOD TRUCK REPORT 5/19/22

A huge thank you to the 28 great volunteers who helped with this Food Truck. We had a light turnout of only 107 families come to get food for 334 individuals. We distributed 8,100 pounds of food. Some of the extra food went to the Food Pantry at St. Johns Church and the rest of the extra food went to Harbor Impact Ministries. The cost of the basic load of food from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan was \$700.00 and the extra protein was \$200.22. The total cost was \$900.22. A Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250.00 went toward the cost. The cost to St. Paul Lutheran Church was \$650.22

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

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS
May 9, 2022
GATHER, GRACE, GROW, GO

Financial: Monthly **giving** has decreased year to date. Compared to our approved budget, the shortfalls have been approximately:

1% for January

2% for through February

4% for through March

Steady at 4% through April

Many factors contribute to ups and downs in monthly giving, so your council is not unduly concerned at this point. However, we will continue to monitor income and expenses so that we can stay within our 2022 budget.

Stewardship: We again have a rotating **monthly calendar** assembled beginning in June. You are always encouraged to participate in Sunday services. How would you most like to be a participant?? Usher, reader, greeter, coffee and socializing, something else?

Property: If you are willing to train on the use of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), please contact Marcus Middleton. The **coffee pot** has been repaired, so the third Lutheran “sacrament” of coffee is assured. (Can you name the first two?) Wood chips are being procured to refresh the Reflection Trail. We are shopping for a lawn service.

Parish Education: In coordination with the Evangelism team, **Vacation Bible School** will be held August 1-5 from 5:00 to 7:30. A light dinner will be served to the students and their parents, who will also be invited to stay for Christian study and conversation. Leanne of the Evangelism Team says, “If you feed them, they will come!” The VBS theme is *Discovery on Adventure Island*. Stay tuned for ways you can support the kids of St. Paul, St. Martin, Our Savior and our neighborhood. Remember, throughout 2022 Thrivent Choice Dollars designated to St. Paul will be allocated to VBS! Sunday morning school will begin again in September.

Evangelism Team: The group of young adults, **Mutual Aid**, is being supported by the team and we are being asked to donate personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, diapers and other items that cannot be purchased with a Bridge Card (as well as food and baby formula) to be distributed by Mutual Aid in our community. The team is also

bringing back Welcoming Cards and considering establishment of a Food Blessing Box.

WELCA: The **book sale** will be Sunday, May 29 and June 5, yay! Books will be displayed by genre on tables down the back hall and around the perimeter of the activity room. Please contribute a free will offering for books you take. What remains will be immediately donated to Harbor Impact Ministries.

Endowment Fund: Council voted to employ the expertise of two investment firms to manage our new Endowment Fund: Thrivent and the ELCA Foundation. **Thrivent** (formerly Lutheran Brotherhood) is a nonprofit Christian investment firm with which many of us may be familiar. It is “...a holistic financial services organization driven by a higher purpose, helping you make the most of all you’ve been given.” The **ELCA Foundation** was established for the explicit purpose of “...holding to God’s purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.” We are excited to see how and where God takes the people of St. Paul with the income generated by the generous bequest of Richard Appel and future contributions by members of the St. Paul family.

The new **Gift Policy** is still under construction to ensure the discipleship and faithfulness of the congregations of St. Paul well into the future.

With heartfelt gratitude and deep regret, council has accepted the resignation of Cathy Stuewer who has served as the elected representative of our Youth Ministry. Anyone interested in engaging, serving, and keeping up with the youth of this community can speak with Pr. Branden or Marilyn!

We will retain two worship services throughout the summer at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Next council meeting is June 13 at 6:30. All are welcome; please join us!

Marilyn Knak, President

*I am sure that nothing ...will ever be able to
separate us from the love God has shown us in
Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8.39*

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June 13, 2022

GATHER, GRACE, GROW, GO

Conference 2 Antiracism Workshop: The fifteen congregations in our conference will join together to learn about racism, non-racism, and antiracism. What is an ally and how can we be good, effective allies for all People of Color? It will be presented by the synod's antiracism team, Building Racial Reconciliation in Christ's Kin-dom (BRRICK) this fall.

Financial: Monthly **giving** leveled off (did not decline) in the month of May. Thanks be to God! Many factors contribute to ups and downs in monthly giving, and we will continue to monitor income and expenses so that we can stay within our 2022 budget.

Stewardship: Our **Thank You** service gathered 84 worshippers who heard moving tributes by Julie and Leann.

There are still some open spaces on the **June volunteer calendar** in the narthex, so be a Greeter, Lector, Usher or host a Social Hour. It's fun and if you don't know what to do or how to do it, descriptions can be found in the narthex.

Contributions to **Habitat for Humanity** may be made at our **Father's Day** worship on June 19th. **Juneteenth** will be celebrated as an annual legal holiday for the first time this year! The holiday commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Originating in Texas, it has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1865. Because it falls on a Sunday this year, the legal holiday will be recognized on Monday the 20th. Remember, that means banks, etc. will be closed.

Property: We have retained service for **lawn maintenance**. Yay! The **garden** has been planted and is already greening up!

Parish Education: In coordination with the Evangelism team, **Vacation Bible School** will be held August 1-5 from 5:00 to 7:30. A light dinner will be served to the students and their parents, who will also be invited to stay for Christian study and conversation. Leanne of the Evangelism Team says, "If you feed them, they will come!" The VBS theme is *Discovery on Adventure Island*. Please support the kids of St. Paul, St. Martin, Our Savior, and our neighborhood. Remember, throughout 2022 Thrivent Choice Dollars designated to St. Paul will be allocated to VBS! Sunday morning school

will begin again in September. Thanks to teachers, Nancy Herber and Diane Merkau.

A recognition of our two graduates, Amelia Steuwer and Lucy Fabick is in the works.

Evangelism Team: The group of young adults, **Mutual Aid**, continues to be supported by the team and we are being asked to donate personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, diapers and other items that cannot be purchased with a Bridge Card (as well as food and baby formula) to be distributed by Mutual Aid in our community.

An **Offering of Letters** is being planned. Stay tuned for more details!

WELCA: The **book sale** garnered \$340! The remaining books were donated to community organizations including the library.

Gift and Endowment Fund policies: The new **Gift and Endowment Policies** are still under construction to ensure the discipleship management of future contributions by members of the St. Paul family.

This is an exciting time for St. Paul as Pr. Branden leads us in reimagining the ministry to and of our kids! The position of council representative for our **Youth Ministry** remains open. If you have a heart for kids of all ages and the energy to keep up with them, speak with Pr. Branden or Lucy Fabick!

We will retain two worship services throughout the summer at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Next council meeting is July 11 at 6:30. All are welcome; please join us!

Marilyn Knak, President

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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, stpaulslutheranph.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!

ALTAR FLOWERS



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

There are still many Sundays available.

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.



HEART WORKS is meeting again at church!!!

We meet the first Tuesday of every month, unless it is a holiday, from 10

until noon. Please come join us as we knit, crochet, or loom items to share with those who are in need. You will find us in the activity room. Mark your calendar, and join us on July 5. Kathy Strauss, 810-985-5361.



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!


The power of kindness



No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

—Amelia Earhart

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:00 Worship 11:00 Worship	4  Happy July 4th OFFICE CLOSED	5 10:00 Heartworks	6	7	8	9
10 8:00 Worship 11:00 Worship	11 6:30 Council Meeting	12	13	14	15	16
17 8:00 Worship 11:00 Worship	18 6:00 Paul's Guys	19	20	21	22	23
24/31 8:00 Worship 11:00 Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30

JULY VOLUNTEERS 2022									
Date	July 3 rd		July 10 th		July 17 th		July 24 th		July 31 st
Time	8:00	11:00	8:00	11:00	8:00	11:00	8:00	11:00	11:00
Greeters	Julie Lusk			Jane Dennis					
Lector	John Lusk	Ann P	Susan Koglin	Kathy Strauss	Susan Wilson	Laurie Morris	Rich Cochrell	Marilyn Knak	Jim Ketchum
Ushers		Mike Welsh				Rich & Laurie Morris			
Social Hour		Diane Welsh							

If you are unable to serve on the Sunday that you've been assigned, please make arrangements to trade with someone else who is serving on a different Sunday and notify the office of the switch. Thank you.