

## From the Pastor's Desk

My, how time flies when you are having fun! It is hard to believe that on June 7 I will celebrate five years of ordination and then on June 15 we will celebrate five years of doing ministry together. It has been an incredible journey filled with "trying" lots of new things together. We have celebrated 100 years as the people of God at St. Paul; hosted three Neighborhood Corn Roasts; created a beautiful cross of broken pottery for our sanctuary; shared many pot-luck soup suppers, Advent dinners, breakfasts in the sanctuary and Progressive Dinners. It has been my privilege to walk with couples on their journey to the altar for their weddings, to walk with new parents on their journey to the font with their infant for baptism, and to walk with members and their families on that final journey home to our Lord. Some of the most sacred conversations have happened on those paths. It has been a joy to watch our youth build relationships and grow in their faith through confirmation classes, camp, retreats, mission trips and the Youth Gathering. I am grateful for the Congregational Council leadership that I have partnered with these past five years.

Many months ago we invited Bishop Don Kreiss from our Synod to join us for a celebration on June 7. We had planned to celebrate 50 years of the ordination of women, 40 years of the ordination of women of color, 10 years of the ordination of LGBTQIA and 5 years of my ordination. Due to Covid-19 we have had to postpone the Bishop's visit indefinitely. But, I would still like to celebrate with YOU! On June 7 rather than a Virtual Social Hour I am inviting you to a drive-by celebration. I will be in-front of the church from 10:30-noon. Please feel free to drive-by, wave and honk. We will practice social distancing by you staying in your car and I will wear a mask. I hope you can join me as we celebrate FIVE incredible years together!!

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Bonnie*



### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

June 7th, 2020 is the **5th anniversary of Pastor Bonnie's ordination.** What a special day for her...and for us at St. Paul. We have been so blessed ever since

Pastor Bonnie joined us 5 years ago. As I write this, I'm not sure how we will be worshiping, or how we might be celebrating. Please look for more information in this newsletter, or on our St. Paul website. And please, continue to keep Pastor Bonnie and her ministry in your prayers.

Mutual Ministry Team

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### **Financial Update from your Treasurer:**

I am happy to report that through the end of April we are continuing to meet our financial obligations. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, contributions are being counted every two weeks, and the Council is most appreciative that you have continued to mail in your checks to help us meet our payroll, utilities and the other basic expenses that continue despite the fact we are not there every week. Pastor Bonnie, Amy Fabick and Diane Biskner continue to work and serve our needs in ways that we never would have dreamed of at the beginning of this year and I am amazed by their dedication to our congregation. Obviously, expenses have been reduced to some extent and you can be certain we are being fiscally responsible during this quarantine time.

Thank you for your continued support and I pray that we all remain healthy and safe.

Julie Lusk

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**GARDEN PLOT APPLICATIONS** are available.

Please contact Don Strauss at 810-434-2380 if you are interested in an application or have questions about the garden.

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

May 11, 2020

Rich Cochrill led our Chapter 3 discussion of "The Church of Us vs them"

Council members are continuing to reach out to congregation members during the "Stay Safe, Stay Home" directive.

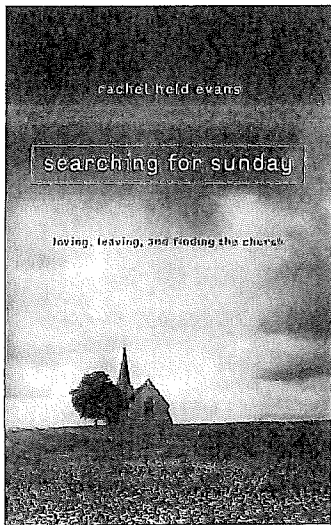
The Annual Congregation meeting has been set for November 1, 2020

Council approved our participation in the Habitat for Humanity Nail Sale.

Jeff Spann, from Mutual Investment Funds has postponed his meeting with the Feasibility Team until it is safe for him to travel.

Council voted to have Drive In Worship once it is safe to do so.

Council authorized Diane Merkau to re-negotiate our mortgage. It is coming due this month.



### Beyond the Bible

On May 31, we will begin our new book "Searching For Sundays: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church" by Rachel Held Evans. Folks

are asked to read the Introduction and Section 1- Baptism before we gather. We will meet via Zoom at noon. If you would like to join us, please contact Pastor Bonnie for the invitation to Zoom. All are welcome!

## Beguiled BY BEAUTY

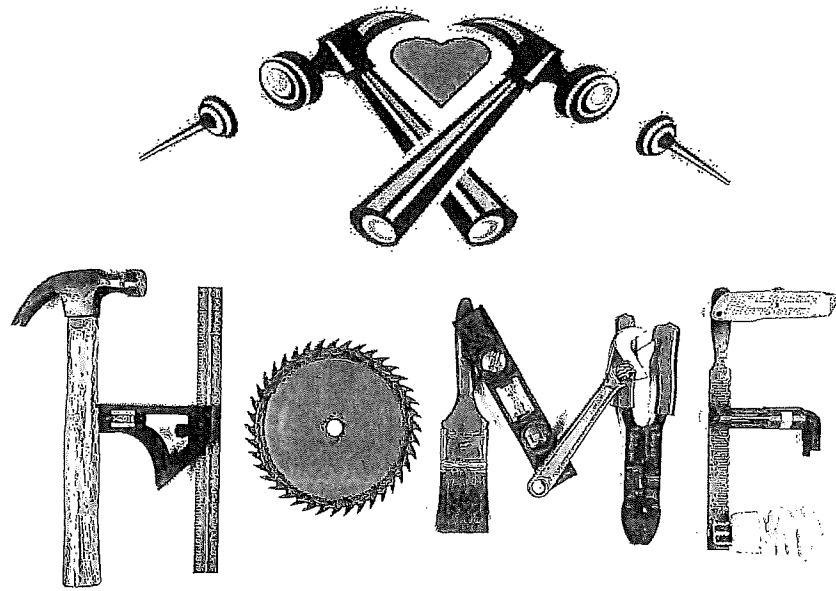
*Cultivating a Life of Contemplation & Compassion*

*One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.*

Psalm 27:4

Beginning June 14, we will begin a six-week worship series "Beguiled by Beauty". An early 6th century theologian described God as "beguiled by beauty." The Creator was lured by a longing for beauty and so set in motion a world of immense diversity and goodness. We were made for this Divine Goodness. We were made inherently worthy, not by our "doing," but by our simply being. All things are beautiful—not by a standard of "pretty" as seen by our eyes, but by an essence of sacred worth that is sensed by the spirit. This is the root and heart of compassion and justice. Practices of contemplation help us train our gaze to these deeper truths. In this worship series we will dwell with the God of Divine Goodness, deeply in love with us, and practice ways to return that love as we fall more deeply in love with creation and with one another. Please plan to join us on Sundays either on our Facebook page @ 9:30 or at our website [www.stpaullutheranph.com](http://www.stpaullutheranph.com) under the Worship Services tab. Don't forget our Virtual Social Hour at 10:30 via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8109829853> Then each Wednesday beginning June 17 @ 10am Pastor Bonnie will lead a small group discussion about the scripture and lesson from the previous Sunday's service. If you are interested in joining Pastor Bonnie, please contact her at [pastorbonniek@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbonniek@gmail.com).

**Join us in building strength, stability and  
self-reliance through homeownership!**



## **Annual NAIL SALE**

St. Paul is supporting the work of Blue Water Habitat for Humanity by hosting our Annual Nail Sale on Father's Day, June 21. Contributions can be mailed to the church. Checks should be made payable to "St. Paul Lutheran Church". Please write "Nail Sale" on the memo. All proceeds will be used to build, rehab or repair Habitat houses in St. Clair and Sanilac Counties. Thank you for your generosity.



Blue Water  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

Everyone deserves a decent place to live.

**FROM JOE SMITH (SON OF MARK AND LEANN SMITH)** (incarcerated at St. Clair County Jail)

Date: March 19, 2020

Dear Members of St. Paul,

I have received quite a few letters and packages from a lot of you and since there are so many of you, I'm not able to thank each of you, so I thought I would just write one big note to all of you!

I appreciate all of the support from all of you. I know that I have been going down a dark path of trouble and addiction and I guess I had to hit rock bottom to climb back up, and realize I have been hurting and pushing away everyone who loves me, and more importantly I've been hurting myself. I have been released. I plan on attending service when I can and look forward to that day.

Thank you for your support, prayers, letters, and books and magazines,

Sincerely,

Joey Smith

**Note from Mark, Leann and family:**

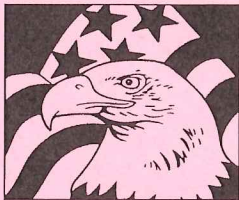
We too cannot thank you enough for the support, prayers, and care you have shown to Joe and our family. We are so blessed to have our St. Paul family. We have learned more than we ever wanted to during this journey with Joey. Your openness, and non-judgmental care has been tremendous and much needed. Please continue to pray for all those incarcerated and fighting addiction. Our family is definitely not alone in this battle.

Love, Mark and Leann Smith



**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](http://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 34 households earned \$93.32 rewards for St. Paul.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter deadline for the July Ray is Sunday, June 14, 2020. Articles may be submitted via e-mail ([stpaulww@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulww@comcast.net)), on a disk (IBM Format) or in writing.



## Remember Our Members In The Military

COL. THAD MIDDLETON  
2205 TANKER WAY  
WICHITA, KS 67210



Melba Bartley  
Connie Ganger  
Lavina Kodet  
Addie Rehberg



## Prayer List

*If you would like to add someone to our church prayer list, please email Pastor Bonnie at [pastorbonniek@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

## FOOD TRUCK REPORT 5/13/2020



A huge thank you to the 52 great volunteers who helped with the food truck. This time we set new records (at least for recent years) in the number of volunteers, households served, individuals served, and people over 60 served. This was due to the current Covid 19 Virus.

We had 199 families come to get food for 657 individuals. There were 180 people served who were over 60. We distributed 10,038 pounds of food. There was a little bit of food left over and 20 boxes went to Harbor Impact and 12 boxes went to the Food Depot. The cost of the food truck was \$900.00 and \$250.00 was paid for by a Thrivent Action Team grant. The remaining \$650.00 was paid for from our food truck reserve account at St Paul.

## 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. Through June 7th you are invited to bring your breakfast, a candle to light and a "worry stone" that you have decorated. The theme will change starting June 14th but not the time. The service is then posted on our website [stpaulslutheranph.com](http://stpaulslutheranph.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>