



## From the Pastor's Desk

It is hard to believe that we are approaching one year since we last gathered together in our sanctuary for worship. Most days it feels like a lifetime has passed. So much has changed in our congregation, our community, our country and the world since last March – the losses of family, friends, jobs, businesses, routines, travel and more. Some things have remained the same – our steadfast God, our need to care for our neighbors, and our love for family and friends.

We have been worshiping on-line each Sunday morning. Well, many people are actually watching on Sunday afternoon or Monday morning or Tuesday evening. This has been a gift for so many that we never expected when this all started. Prior to last March our average worship attendance was 98 people. Since the middle of March our average worship attendance has been 432.

As we are preparing for worship to return to in-person (No, I don't have a date at this time), we are recognizing the need to continue providing on-line worship in order to reach the over 300 more people than are joining us in-person each week. Sharing God's Word is a huge part of what we are called to do as Christians.

The reality is that I can not do this alone. The Council has approved a technology team to make this happen. The technology team would be similar to our stewardship committee, or our evangelism committee or our worship and music committee. They would meet on a regular basis to determine our technology needs (I already have professional quotes), decide the best way to stream worship on-line, and determine volunteers/staffing for Sunday mornings.

In order to serve on our technology committee folks do NOT need to have a background in technology, but rather a passion for sharing God's Word with folks that for a variety of reasons (homebound, work on Sunday mornings, uncomfortable coming in-person) need to join us for worship on-line. This is an exciting new ministry for St. Paul to live into.

If you are interested in learning more about this new technology team or how we can share God's Word with folks on-line, please contact me at 608-397-1975 or at [pastorbonniek@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbonniek@gmail.com).

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Bonnie*

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### Midweek Worship during Lent

On **Wednesday evenings at 7pm** you are invited to gather on-line via Facebook or our website [stpaul LutheranPH.com](http://stpaul LutheranPH.com) under the "Worship Services" tab for Holden Evening Prayer. Each week Pastor Bonnie shares different scripture readings from the lectionary for the season of Lent. Holden Evening Prayer was newly recorded this year. It is a beautiful way to pause in the middle of the week, reflect on God's Word and center yourself. If you picked up a Lent-in-a-bag kit this year, many folks are spending time afterwards reflecting and sharing about one of the items in the kit at home.

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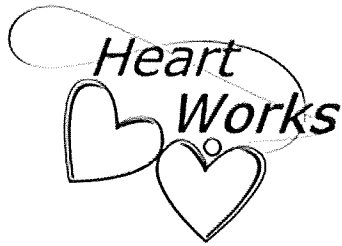


**Sunday, March 28-** Palm Sunday Worship on-line @9:30am on Facebook or our website under the "Worship Services" tab – bring your Palm Branch that you have colored (see enclosed in the newsletter)

**Thursday, April 1** – Maundy Thursday worship on-line @7pm on Facebook or our website under the "Worship Services" tab – bring a small bowl of oil for anointing during the service

**Friday, April 2** – Good Friday Drive-Thru Stations of the Cross at church 6-8pm (See article in the newsletter)

**Sunday, April 4** – Easter worship on-line @ 9:30am on Facebook or our website under the "Worship Services" tab.



**HEART WORKS** is inviting you to what is becoming our Annual Knitting Day.

This year will be a little different,

however, because we will be meeting virtually. The date is Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, and we will be meeting via Zoom from 10 until noon, with Pastor Bonnie as our Zoom hostess. You may work on a project for your own home or family, or work on a project such as a prayer shawl, hat or scarf to donate to Heart Works...either is fine. Our intent is for us to enjoy FELLOWSHIP and share ideas with others who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or looming. Because we are meeting virtually, I won't be able to share patterns, or extra looms, knitting needles, or crochet hooks, but I will be passing out Red Heart yarn to each knitter who signs up by March 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to attend our Knitting Day, please register by emailing me at [kstrauss48@gmail.com](mailto:kstrauss48@gmail.com). Pastor Bonnie will send you a Zoom link a day or two ahead. We look forward to "seeing" you on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Drive-Thru Stations of the Cross**

Our "Journey to the Manger" on Christmas Eve was such a hit last year we have decided to create a similar opportunity for the congregation and the community during Lent. You are invited to come to the church between **6-8pm on Good Friday (April 2)** to experience the Stations of the Cross drive-thru style. You are invited to stay in your car. Please enter at the east driveway. There will be signs posted directing you. Each car will receive a booklet explaining each station. The stations tell the story of Jesus' journey to the cross. Please allow approximately 20 minutes for your drive-thru experience.

## **Blue Water Global Mission Team Mission Spotlight: Sandy Bay Lighthouse Ministries**

The Blue Water Global Mission Team would like to highlight another one of the awesome global missions that we have been able to support financially with funds that were raised and dedicated for this purpose.

Sandy Bay Lighthouse Ministries is a nonprofit, non-denominational Christian organization that provides a loving, safe shelter for at risk children in Honduras. The SBLM campus is located on the island of Roatan, about 40 miles off the coast of Honduras. They provide a bilingual Christian education for students staying at the home as well as in the surrounding community. Orsy and Banesa Cruz are the directors of the Greenfield's Children's Home, which currently houses 24 children. SBLM is currently in the midst of expanding The Beacon School. Construction began in 2017. The first floor of the school has been in use since 2018. When finished the school will provide pre-K through grade 8. It will also have space for community English as a second language instruction and instruction in various trades for the wider community. There will also be space for various church and community gatherings. If you are interested in learning more about the amazing work this ministry is providing or providing financial support please visit [www.sblmroatan.net](http://www.sblmroatan.net).

Thank you all for your continued support of the Blue Water Global Mission Team and enabling us to support amazing mission work like this.

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**Save the dates:** Food Trucks **Thursday, May 20** and **Thursday, August 19**. Food distribution will begin at 11:00am. Details for volunteers will be shared closer to the dates.



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

February 8, 2021

Star Word - *Loving*

Council is continuing the discussion on the book, *Canoeing the Mountains*.

Mission and Vision committee will meet February 24th to begin reviewing the newly developed Mission and Vision statement.

Boiler System update - All work has been completed. Thank you to all who have helped.

Staying Connected - Council members will help keep members connected during these times of separation through notes, phone calls, emails, or texts.

Financial donation to council - Various ways to use this donation for ministering are being considered.

Thrivent Dollar Designation - These dollars will remain as designated last year while the council considers possible use for technology.

Technology Committee - Council is working to develop this committee.

Council will continue with its review of various church policies.

Council approved Food Trucks for May/June and August.

A gift of a lighted stained glass window was accepted by the council when it becomes available.

Council approved repainting the sanctuary.

 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Let's thrive.

Don't forget to direct  
Choice Dollars®

Remember that if you are a Thrivent member you may have "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to direct. St. Paul is one of the many potential recipients of your choice dollars, but your direction needs to be made each time. See Thrivent's website for more information.

You can also call 800-847-4836 and Thrivent will assist you.



We're excited to share 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, [stpaul.lutheranph.com](http://stpaul.lutheranph.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!

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### Zoom Meetings without a computer-

Did you know that you can join our Virtual Social Hour on Sunday mornings without a computer? All of our Bible Studies, meetings and Virtual Social Hour can be joined by telephone – this includes landlines and cellphones! You won't have video capabilities, but you will be able to hear everyone and speak to everyone. All of our meetings have the same phone number to access the meeting. Simply dial 929-205-6099 and when prompted enter 810 982 9853#. After the next prompt enter # again and you will be able to join our conversation. We hope this enables more folks to feel connected!

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### Send us your email address-

We are working to stay connected with more folks in a variety of ways. We are sending out weekly emails with what is happening the coming week, devotions, birthdays and prayer concerns. Your email address will NOT be sold to a third party. Currently, we have 113 email addresses. It is our goal to reach everyone who uses email (even if you only check it once a week). Please send the church office ([stpaulww@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulww@comcast.net)) your email address so you can receive the latest news and updates!

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## **2021 Church Council**

Rich Cochrill, Council President  
Marilyn Knak, President Elect  
Marcia Conard, Council Secretary  
Julie Lusk, Treasurer  
Susan Koglin, Financial Secretary  
Jane Dennis, Asst. Financial Secretary  
Karen Lee, Financial Representative  
Leanne Fortushniak, Evangelism Rep  
Danielle Golubinski, Parish Ed Rep  
Chris Matts, Properties Rep  
Ann Preimesberger, Stewardship Rep  
Sue Wilson, Worship Rep  
Lucy Fabick, Youth Rep  
Cathy Stuewer, Youth Team Rep

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### **Our Daily Bread Devotionals**

The March-May edition of "Our Daily Bread Devotions" has arrived. We have placed a stack of them 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.

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### **Re-Opening the Building Committee**

We are closely monitoring the St. Clair Health Department's Covid-19 weekly report. Each month the council has conversation on the current status. We are continuing to follow the guidelines provided to us by the Synod, CDC and our insurance company for the safest way for our most vulnerable members to gather.

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With the recent US Postal Service delays we have experienced in mailing our monthly newsletter, we are asking members to submit their email address so that the newsletter can also be

sent by email. Please submit your email address to the church office, [stpaulww@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulww@comcast.net).

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**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 36 households earned \$91.08 rewards for St. Paul.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter deadline for the April Ray is Sunday, March 14, 2021. Articles may be submitted via e-mail ([stpaulww@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulww@comcast.net)), on a flash drive or in writing.

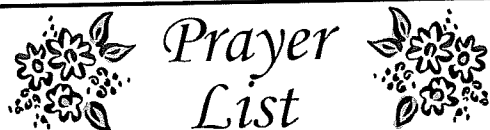


**Remember  
Our Members  
In The Military**

COL. THAD MIDDLETON  
2205 TANKER WAY  
WICHITA, KS 67210



Melba Bartley  
Connie Ganger  
Lavina Kodet  
MaryAnn Meyer  
Beth Radtke



*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.*



**Lent begins with  
Ash Wednesday  
on February 17**

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**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.

The service is also posted on our website [stpaulutheranph.com](http://stpaulutheranph.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> or see the article about join us without a computer.