

From the Pastor's Desk

"I'm so busy!" I hear this from people every day. Youth, young parents, working people and retired folks all seem to be overwhelmed with being "busy". Often their busy-ness is filled with great stuff that they enjoy. How do we step back and take time for self-care and spending just a little more time with God?

The season of Lent has often been a time when we think about "giving something up"—a holdover from its penitential flavor in the medieval church. But what if we thought less about "giving up" and more about "making room?" In our Lent series this year, we will find out what it really costs to be so busy. Let us reconnect to an unhurried God.

Our Sunday worship will be more reflective and offer space for breathing, prayer and reconnecting with God as we focus on scripture. Our Wednesday worship will be our traditional Holden Evening Prayer with some time for reflection and centering ourselves. Following Wednesday evening worship, I will lead a Bible Study using *The Walk- Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*.

In *The Walk*, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church. In each chapter, Hamilton explores one of these practices, its New Testament foundation, and what it looks like to pursue this practice daily in our personal life and together in the life of the church. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the five essential practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to our faith.

Invite a friend to join you this Lent as we journey together to the cross seeking to reconnect an unhurried God.

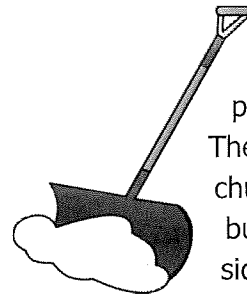
Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie

Attention eligible

Thrivent Financial members

2019 Thrivent Choice Dollars remaining in your account from last year can still be directed until March 31, 2020. As many of you know, an eligible Thrivent benefit member can direct Choice Dollars to their church or favorite nonprofit organization. Keep in mind 2019 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2020. To direct remaining 2019 Choice Dollars call 800-847-4836 and state "Choice Dollars" or visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. If you require assistance please contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.



Please share your gift of shoveling by signing up with a partner for a week this winter. There are lots of activities here at church and groups using our building during the week so our sidewalks need to be shoveled and salted each time it snows! There is a snow blower available for a heavier snowfall. Please sign up in the narthex.

CELEBRATION THANK YOU

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who helped out with the Celebration luncheon in January to Celebrate our 2019 Funding Achievements! Thank you to our speakers: Julie Lusk, Heather Rousey, Laurie Morris and Jim Sanderson, as well as to all who helped with the setting up, taking down and cleanup. It was an awesome Celebration.



St. Paul will be hosting **Food Trucks** on May 13th and August 20th. Volunteers will need to be at the church by 10 a.m. Distribution will be at 11:00 a.m.



St. Paul is thankful for memorial gifts received the first quarter of 2020.

In memory of **Janet VanLuven** by: John & Carolyn Carleton, Judy Halamka, Linda Massacar, Daniel & Sandra Carr, Steven & Susan Dresser, Joan Vercnocke, Jim & Donna Sanderson, Don & Kathy Strauss, Joel Carr, Mark & Lisa Carr, John & Julie Lusk.

In memory of **Sally Horley** by: Joan Vercnocke, Michael & Pat Watson, Maryann Meyers, Jim & Donna Sanderson, Don & Kathy Strauss, Dennis & Marlene Sherman, Norman Weston, Eileen Moore, Mike & Michele Marone, Lauren & Harriett Short, Jim & Candy Weston, Eleanor Wolfe.

In memory of **Garth Fleming** by: Garth & Diane Kriewall, Carl & Marilyn Beals, Jacques & Diane Merkau, Bill & Sally Moldwin, Carol Warwick, Greg & Susan Koglin, Don & Kathy Strauss, Richard Falk, Joan Vercnocke, John & Julie Lusk, William Gottschalk, Bob, Dorothy & Stacey Eifert, Ruth Ann Habalewsky, Karen Spagnoli, Judy Halamka, Richard & Linda Barker, Ted & Marilyn Taylor, Sue Atfield, Frederick & Mary Jane Albert, Blue Water Garden Club, Val Krafft, Dave & Sandy Lashbrook, Guy & Rosanne Beauregard, John & Denise Reno, Marianne Campbell.

Thank You

Your response to help offset the cost of the envelopes and monthly mailing is appreciated. To date, \$540 has been received in the initial offering envelopes and has been set aside to pay the monthly bill. Last year's expense was \$676. If you have not yet made a donation for this purpose, there is still time.

Currently not receiving envelopes and wish to, contact the church office 982-9853 and ask to be added to the envelope list. You will then receive envelopes, one month at a time, and a quarterly statement of giving.

An alternate option is available. Want to donate directly, the secretary can provide information to set up the necessary authorization.

Southeast MI Synod LEADERSHIP LABS 2020 for Lay & Professional Leaders

March 7, 2020 9am-Noon "Growing Servant Volunteers" at Zion Lutheran Church, Chelsea

Are people the lifeblood of your ministry? Do you struggle to get parishioners to volunteer-serve, especially for leadership positions? Join us and learn what today's volunteers expect and explore practical ways to renew and increase the depth of your congregation's volunteer pool. Rev. Kathy Tulman has more than 40 years' experience developing and maintaining volunteers in a variety of non-profit organizations and has taught sessions on this topic at ELCA synod events in western Wisconsin.

Sign-up in the narthex to attend this Leadership Lab as part of our benefits from the Rise-Up Campaign the Synod organized.



Valentine's Day Spaghetti Dinner

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our youth and adults going to the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN next summer. The food was delicious (a huge thank you to Shelly Sloan for cooking!), the decorations delightful (thank you to Heather Rousey) and the fellowship was wonderful. Thank you for your generosity - \$625 was raised!

Janet A. VanLuven remembered.....



Janet was baptized at St. Paul. She married William VanLuven on December 28, 1957 at St. Paul. Janet had a strong faith, instilled in her by Grandma Kelly, Janet instilled the same faith in her children. Janet and her brother, David, attended every Sunday together; they were fun to converse with. She was always the picture of style, her beautiful hair was her crowning glory. She was a devoted mother and grandmother and loved caring for her family. Her house was always filled with goodies-chocolate chip cookies, banana bread, banana cream pie and her famous chocolate sheet cake. Janet was always the "fun" aunt - growing up she was the only Kelly girl that could drive, nieces and nephews would pile into her car and she would drive them to Dairy Queen, McDonald's, the beach AND Frankenmuth. Her nieces and nephews still have fond memories of the experience.

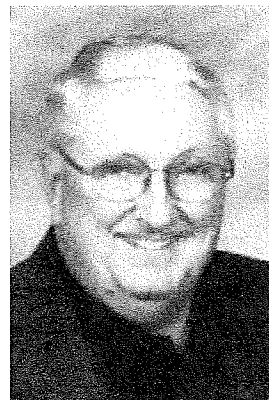
Sally A. Horley remembered.....



Sally and Floyd were married in the Wells St. church on October 28, 1967. Sally was an active member at St. Paul, she played handbells for many years.

It was important to Sally to raise her children at St. Paul. Growing up she was quite the tomboy; in high school she played softball and basketball; even played in a league in her forties. Sally loved traveling, visited Europe, Florida, Disney and Nashville. Her German heritage was very important to her; she loved the traditions her grandmother passed down, especially making cabbage bread. She loved cooking with Floyd; when they would turn their backs each would add an ingredient to the other's pot. She worked retail for many years. She enjoyed music, dancing and especially watching football on Sundays. Especially enjoyed time with family.

Garth W. Fleming remembered.....



Garth and Joan, high school sweethearts, were married on April 12, 1952; they had two sons, Mark and Doug & 6 grandchildren. He coached Mark and Doug in hockey. He joined the army and served 3 years in Germany during the Korean conflict as a Morse Code Interpreter. While in Germany he became an avid golfer. When he returned home, he became Branch Manager of Pacific Finance/Transamerica in Port Huron. He later sold real estate with Moak Realty. Garth and Joan loved to camp and took their camper all over the country. They also traveled in Europe. His next fun hobby- sailing aboard their sailboat "Liebchen". He loved to hunt and fish.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS February 10, 2020

The Council began reading “The Church of Us vs. Them” by David E. Fitch together. Rich Cochrill is leading our discussion.

The Council has approved a Vision statement, Mission statement and logo developed by the Mission and Vision Team.

Vision Statement:

Formed by all who gather, St. Paul Lutheran Church exists as a judgement free space for God. Together, we worship and experience Christ’s love and grace, encouraging everyone to serve all neighbors.

Mission Statement:

Gather, Grace, Grow, Go

Logo:

To be introduced at a later date.

Building Use Policy and application were approved.

Moving forward, the Council has appointed a Building Feasibility Committee.

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!

2020 Church Council

Linda Barker, Council President

Rich Cochrill, President Elect

Cathy Stuewer, Council Secretary

Julie Lusk, Treasurer

Donna Sanderson, Financial Secretary

Susan Koglin, Asst. Financial Secretary

Ruth Reim, Financial Representative

Laurie Morris, Evangelism Rep

Danielle Golubinski, Parish Ed Rep

Chris Matts, Properties Rep

Ann Preimesberger, Stewardship Rep

Sue Wilson, Worship Rep

Olivia Rousey, Youth Rep

Heather Rousey, Youth Team Rep



Wednesdays in Lent

5:30 Handbells

6:00 Potluck Soup Supper

7:00 Holden Evening Prayer

7:45 Bible Study



A Note from the Treasurer

Bills and payroll are scheduled to be paid March 11th & 25th. Please submit paperwork at least one day prior to these dates in order for checks to be issued.

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 2019 to May 2020. Our NPO number is RK460. **Registration is online only.** Last quarter 32 households earned \$101.23 in rewards for St. Paul.

2) Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for the April Ray is Sunday, February 16, 2020. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (stpaulww@comcast.net), on a disk (IBM Format) or in writing.

3) Please make sure that if you need to borrow something from the church that you check the rental 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. The rental book is on top of the filing cabinet in the church office.

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

*Church Secretary Hours:
Monday – Friday 9am to 1 pm*

Diane,
Church
Secretary

Don't settle

For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them.

—John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*