

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3790 WEST WATER ST
PORT HURON, MI 48060
(810)982-9853

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #660
PORT HURON, MI 48060

Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Livestream at 11:00 am on Facebook, our Youtube channel,
or watch from the link on our website
stpaulww@comcast.net
Pastor Branden Hunt
stpaulpastorelca@gmail.com

The Ray

Gather, Grace, Grow, Go

 **March** 



Lent is here!

Dear friends,

As you read this, we are heading into Lent. Some of us may be skipping joyfully and some may be just trying to make it day by day. This is a big time of year for Christians because we have the chance to take a look at ourselves and our church and see where we have been, where we are, and where we are going.

The theme of Lent this year is "On the Journey: God's not done with us yet." We know that life is a marathon, not a sprint. We will have ups and downs. We will laugh and we will cry. But through it all, we know that Jesus is with us, supporting us, and sometimes pulling us along. At the end of the day, dear Friends, we know that God is not done with us yet.

As we prepare for this time of Lent, I invite you to think about where you are and where you want to be. Where is God calling you to grow and who is God calling you to forgive?

Then I invite us to think about where we are as a church and where we want to be! What is God calling us to do next?

I'm so excited to be on this journey with you all. May the God of all creation hold you close during this Lenten season!

Pastor Branden



2023

Jacques Merkau, Council President
Vacant-President Elect

Marcia Conard, Council Secretary
Julie Lusk, Treasurer

Kathy Strauss, Financial Secretary
Susan Koglin, Asst. Financial Secretary
Vacant-Financial Rep

Leanne Fortushniak, Evangelism Rep
Leann Smith, Parish Ed Rep

Vacant-Properties Rep
Diane Welsh, Stewardship Rep
Ann Preimesberger, Worship Rep

40 days
OF LENT

Please join us in worship each Wednesday during the month of March for our **Lenten Worship Services** here at St. Paul. The Service starts at 7:00 p.m. and follows our Soup Potluck which starts at 6:00 p.m.





2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

including **MYLE** the tAble
Young Adult Gathering

• July 16-20, 2024

We are **created to be brave**, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.

We are **created to be authentic**, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.

We are **created to be free**, to be transformed by the gospel.

We are **created to be disruptive**, to work for justice for all our siblings.

We are **created to be disciples**, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.

Our host city, New Orleans, has always been its true, authentic self. Our theme, "Created to Be," highlights the arts, music and soul of this beautiful, vibrant and resilient city. New Orleans was built to host and be a city where all God's children come together.

We plan to dive deeper into justice, mental health and anti-racism conversations throughout the Gathering. These are hard conversations, but our church desperately needs to have them. We also hope to foster relationships and be a sanctuary for one another. We are saint and sinner simultaneously, and we need forgiveness when we aren't or can't be brave, authentic, free, disruptive disciples.

To incorporate our pre-events —the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble — into the overall Gathering more intentionally, we are excited that both events will share the "Created to Be" theme. A brand-new Young Adult Gathering, to take place concurrent with the ELCA Youth Gathering, will share the theme as well.

OUR DAILY BREAD

The March/April/May 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.

ONLINE GIVING

St. Paul Lutheran Church offers online giving 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, 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.

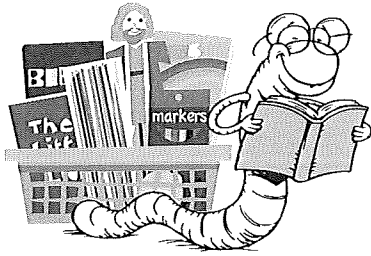
Thank you for supporting our ministry!



Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the Narthex to sign up to sponsor Altar Flowers in honor/memory of a loved one.

Cost is \$25 per Sunday sponsored.

Please include your payment in with your regular offering with the amount listed under the "other" line and "flowers" written after the word "other" or if you don't have offering envelopes, in an envelope indicating that the payment is for flowers.



In Our Library

Thinking about the books I wanted to share brought to mind a part of a devotion which I had read from *A Look at Life from a Deer Stand* by Steve Chapman. The devotion is titled "I Wanna Go With My Daddy."

"It was a heart wrenching sight to see as my buddy and I pulled out of his driveway and looked back. There in the driveway, resting in his mother's arms, was a little boy dressed in camo pajamas with one of the saddest faces I've ever seen. Tears were streaming down his face as he watched his dad head off to hunt without him.

My friend then actively pressed the gas pedal and looked over at me with a pained expression, "Ouch!" was all he could grunt out. "The minute his mama says it's okay for him to go, he'll be in this truck with me."

Kids want to be with their dads and learn from them and not just about hunting.

Several books found on the Men's Ministry Shelf can help dads, granddads, or uncles help teach their children about the importance of prayer and how to pray, talk, communicate, and share with God.

Take a look at *Just Like Daddy* by Helga Moser, or *Peter's Perfect Prayer Place*, *Prayer Works* both by Steven Kendrick and Alex Kendrick.

These are great books to read and discuss with your kids, grandkids, a niece or a nephew. You might even share them with the kids next door.

Who doesn't need prayer?

Submitted By
Rich Cochrell



Please join us at Heart Works on Tuesday, March 7th, for a couple hours of fellowship

as we knit, crochet, or loom items to share with those in need. We will be in the Activity Room from 10 until noon. Hope you can join us."



SAVE THE DATES

The Church Council has approved having 3 Food Trucks this year. Many volunteers are needed. Be there by at least 10:00 AM with distribution starting at 11:00 AM.

Wednesday	May 17, 2023
Friday	July 21, 2023
Thursday	September 21, 2023