

From the Pastor's Desk

As the weather gets warmer (hopefully- I'm writing this as the snow is falling in April), we are looking forward to gathering as a faith community for worship together. It is safest for us to gather outdoors and so we will resume our Drive-in style worship that was so popular last summer. Pentecost is May 23 and will kick off our Drive-in style worship. Tom Wilson will be providing a stage and sound equipment that will allow you to turn your car radio to an FM station to listen to the service in your car. Please enter the west parking lot so the ushers can direct you to a parking space. The ushers will be wearing masks and directing traffic to help you get in line on the paved parking lot side.

Expectations:

People **MUST** stay in their cars

Two services – 8:00 & 10:30

Zoom social hour @ 9:15

Services will be approx. 45 minutes or less

No admittance to the church building –

bathrooms are NOT available

Bulletins will be provided for each person – keep them and recycle them at home. They will include hymns.

Offering will be collected at a station next to the ushers.

Communion will be served.

Online worship will continue for those not comfortable in joining us in the parking lot.

In case of inclement weather including, but not limited to heavy rain, lightning, snow (this is Michigan!), temperature below 50 degrees, high winds worship will be cancelled.

Announcement will be on Facebook and on our website.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie



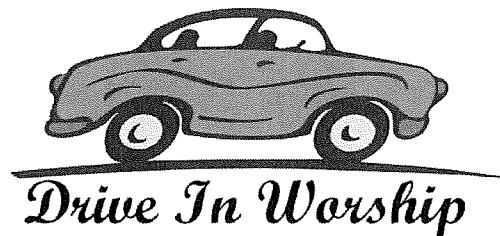
Thrivent offers all of their members the opportunity to receive two \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grants per year. If you have an account with Thrivent and would like to "sponsor" one of our Drive-in worship services, please contact Pastor Bonnie. This is a wonderful, easy way to support St. Paul and our ability to have Drive-in style worship for our congregation and the community. These grants have supported our Drive-thru Stations of the Cross, Heart Works knitting days, Advent-in-a-bag, Lent-in-a-bag, the community garden, food trucks and much more!

Synod Assembly-

Synod Assembly will be held virtually this year due to the pandemic. Carol Warwick, Judy Forstner and Pastor Bonnie will be attending via Zoom 9am-3pm on May 15. There will be worship offered on Friday evening which will be open for everyone to view. Watch our Mid-Week email update for the Zoom link to join the worship service.

Beyond the Bible

On May 2, we are continuing our new book "Everything is Spiritual" by Rob Bell. Folks are asked to read up to page 125. We will meet via Zoom at noon. If you would like to join us, please contact Pastor Bonnie for the invitation to Zoom. It is also available in the Mid-Week email. Rob Bell is a very engaging writer that we have come to enjoy! All are welcome!



Save the dates:

Drive-in Style worship in June will be June 6 and June 27



Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Every year an Offering of Letters is collected to urge our legislators in Congress to pass legislation to feed our brothers and sisters domestically and globally. Supported with prayer, these letters are a bold witness to God's justice and mercy. **Year after year, they impact the decisions made in Congress.**

As Bread works with Congress to make further progress toward ending hunger, we are building on major victories in the American Rescue Plan. Domestically, Bread will focus on these priorities:

1. Make permanent the 15% increase in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
2. Make permanent the nine-year summer food program (EBT) for children even when school is not in session
3. Make permanent the child tax credit which will lift millions of children out of poverty and help reduce racial inequality

We are writing letters and then mailing them directly to our members of Congress or emailing letters online to our Representative and both Senators with a single form. You may make a letter offering once or once a week or once a month or until your printer runs out of toner! At WWW.BREAD.ORG/OL you will find sample letters and fact sheets. We will keep track of how many letters and emails are sent by asking you to let Marilyn Knak know once you have done so at 586-864-6903 or marandron@sbcglobal.net

"Speak out for the rights of all who are destitute. Defend the rights of the poor and needy."
Proverbs 31:8-9

Dear Friends,

Our son, Joe Smith, is incarcerated and will be for a very long time. Please consider sending a letter of encouragement to him. He's so happy to get mail and positive words of any kind, even if it's just you telling about your day. No cards, just white paper with blue or black ink pen, in plain white envelopes. We appreciate all the continued prayers and positive thoughts you send our way.

Love, Mark and Leann Smith

If you have questions: call #810-385-7369(landline) or email: leann57@iwarp.net or text: 810-488-5829 (Leann) or 810-488-5830 (Mark)

Joe's address: Joseph A. Smith #601466
Richard A Hadlon
Correctional Facility
1728 W. Bluewater Highway
Ionia, MI 48846



Food Truck

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for the Food Truck on Thursday, May 20, 2021. The need for food in our area is as great as it has

ever been. If you can help, please be there by **10:00am**. The distribution starts at 11:00am. Please bring a mask and gloves if you have them. Masks and gloves are mandatory. If you forget your mask or gloves they will be provided.

The food distribution will be slightly different from last year. The food and volunteers will be in the middle of the paved parking lot. The food recipients will drive around the outside of the paved parking lot and stay in their cars while volunteers put food into boxes in their cars. If you have extra plastic grocery bags or boxes, please bring them. If you can help, please call or text Laurie Morris at 810-242-9358.

A \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team grant has been approved for this food truck.

Called to be..., and called to do...

Sunday, April 11th was the second Sunday of Easter, and the gospel reading was from John 20:19-31. Bishop Donald Kreiss preached on this text, and one of the first things he spoke about was Jesus calling his disciples. As Bishop Kreiss said, and we know from scripture, Matthew 4:18-22, they left and immediately followed Him. We, too, are called to follow Jesus. We are not only called to be followers but we are called to do many things.

My favorite verse from the Gospel text, John 20:19-31, is verse 21. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so send I you."

Margaret Clarkson, a Canadian school teacher, wrote a song based on the text John 20:21 titled "So Send I You". This song was adapted in a volume titled Jesus Style Songs Vol. 1 by Augsburg Press in 1972.

I believe this version best expresses what we as disciples are called to do.

So Send I You

E. Margaret Clarkson John W. Peterson

So send I you to labor unrewarded
To serve unpaid, unloved, unsought, unknown,
To bear rebuke, to suffer scorn and scoffing
So send I you to toil for me alone.
"As the father has sent me, So send I you."

So send I you to bind the bruised and broken,
O'er wand'ring souls to work, to weep, to wake,
To bear the burden of a world weary
So send I you to suffer for my sake.
"As the Father has sent me, So send I you."

So send I you to loneliness and longing, With heart ahungering for the loved and known,
Forsaking home and kindred, friend and dear one
So send I you to know my love alone.
"As the Father has sent me, So send I you."

So send I you to leave your life's ambition,
To die to dear desire, self-will resign
To labor long and love where men revile you
So send I you to lose your life in mine.
"As the Father has sent me, So send I you."

So send I you to hearts made hard by hatred,
To eyes made blind because they will not see,
To spend though it be blood, to spend and spare not
So send I you to taste of Calvary.
"As the Father has sent me, So send I you."

The Thursday devotion for April 1st from Our Daily Bread spoke to what we are called to do also,
"Everyone in our church family has been so helpful in taking care of during this time." 1 Peter 4:7-11

The worship for the second Sunday of Easter, April 11th, closed with the hymn ELW 798, "Will You Come and Follow Me," which calls us to follow and to do.

Rich Cochrill
Council President



Living Hope Ministries in Haiti

•Nonprofit Organization

<http://www.livinghopehaiti.org> or like us on Facebook @Living Hope Ministries in Haiti

Sunday May 9th Thru May 31st 2021

3rd Annual Virtual Mwen Walk Spring Fundraiser

Our goal is to invite new families to sponsor a school age child in Haiti and create a strong relationship between the US and Haiti. The Student Sponsorship program allow families to be involved directly with Living Hope Ministries. *Please follow us on Facebook and check the website regularly each week during May for video updates and additional information.*

- There are ~ 80 children in need of sponsorship
- Currently there are 192 sponsored students (mostly 1st-6th grade students)

Sponsorship involves 2 primary components:

1. Develop a personal relationship with your sponsored student as they become "part of your family."
 - Pray for your student
 - Send them photos of your family, pets, and activities
 - Send CARE packages as you are able (Christmas, Birthday, Start of School, etc.)
 - Receive yearly updates and thank you notes from your child
2. Financial support of \$40/month just \$1.33 per day!

Sponsorship Fund's support:

- On-going school operations which helps to support all students in primary school
- Teachers' salaries (60+ full & part-time staff)
- School supplies, text books, and testing materials
- Hot meal each day

Consider also supporting this ministry through prayer

Tamara Howes will lead a **prayer walk or prayer time** at **East China Park** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 throughout the month of May** to hold our own **Mwen Walk**. Please **meet by the picnic tables next to the basketball and tennis courts**. We will walk together 1-2 miles while we pray for the students at Living Hope Ministries. If you don't wish to walk, we invite you to sit and pray. All are welcome to join this prayer ministry. Please call **Tamara Howes at 810-278-0995** if you have any questions about the **Mwen Walk** and or **would like to sponsor a child** at Living Hope Ministries.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

April 12, 2021

Star Word - *Loving*

Technology Committee - Four people have committed to work on this committee. A Mt. Zion grant has been submitted for the purpose of helping to fund the technology.

Sanctuary/Narthex - Painting has been completed and the carpet has been cleaned.

Bread for the World - Please see the articles in the April and May newsletter. If you have helped by writing, please let Marilyn Knak know.

Stage - With outdoor worship, in car and lawn chair, approaching, council discussed the need for expanded stage use.

Landscaping - Work to improve the landscaping around the church has been completed. Thank you Marcus.

West parking lot - Council is looking into the possibility of maintaining and improving the west parking lot.

New keyboard - The Worship and Music committee and the Technology committee will explore the need and possibility of a new keyboard.

 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, 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!

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!

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) your email address so you can receive the latest news and updates!

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

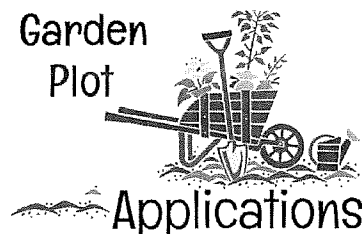
Cathy Stuewer, Youth Team Rep

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.

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.



Garden plot applications are available. Call Don Strauss at 810-434-2380 for an application. Applications are also available on our website.

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 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 June Ray is Sunday, May 16, 2021. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (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

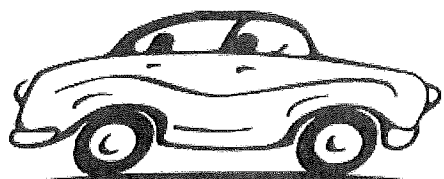


Melba Bartley
Connie Ganger
Lavina Kodet
MaryAnn Meyer



Prayer List

If you would like to add someone to our church prayer list, please email Pastor Bonnie at 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.



Drive-In Worship

Join us for Drive-in Style Worship
For Pentecost May 23
@ 8 & 10:30 a.m.

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 stpaulwlutheranph.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.