



Self care.

As the church, we are called to make an impact in the world. We really want to see God's reign take place: Everyone has what they need. There is no hunger. No homelessness. God's love and grace allow us to do this.

That means self care is so critical for us. We can't do it all by ourselves and we can't do it without rest. We love caring for our friends. We love helping people but it is important to rest. When we rest and care for ourselves, we are able to take on the mission with more energy.

In our world, there is a lot of pressure to do more and contribute more. There is pressure to not stop because that could be seen as laziness. But that couldn't be further from the truth.

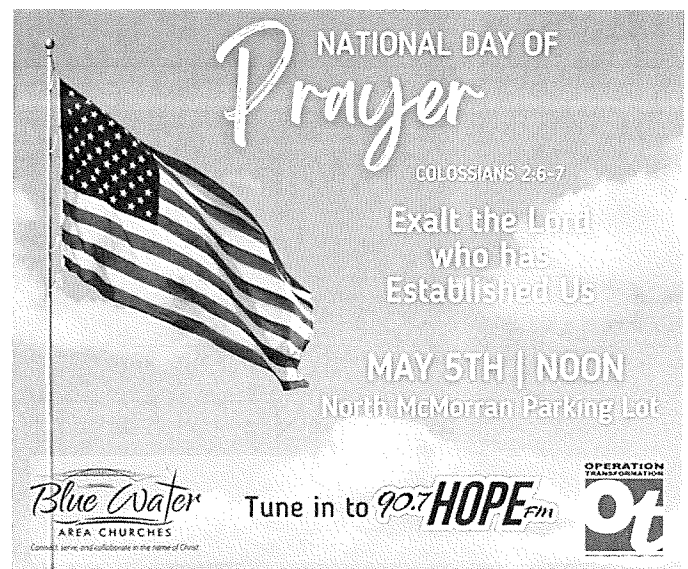
Jesus rested. He went aside to pray. He got tired. He felt feelings. Jesus was so in tune with his body and listening to what it needed.

It has been a long Lent and a long journey for many of us. So please, please take time for yourself to rest and to heal. Caring for yourself means you can care for others even better. And that can impact the world.

May God bless you with a time of self care during this Easter season.

Pastor Branden

**WE'RE BACK!** Sunday School will be meeting May 8 & 22 from 9:45-10:45. We will begin in the Narthex and then head to our classrooms. This is for school-age children. We can't wait to see you. Spread the word, bring a friend. If you have any questions or concerns contact: Leann Smith via email: [leann57@iwarp.net](mailto:leann57@iwarp.net), or phone: 810-488-5829.



The theme for the 2022 National Day of Prayer Service is **"Exalt the Lord"** and is based on the verse from Colossians 2:6-7 which states: "Exalt the Lord who as established us." Operation Transformation, along with Blue Water Area Churches, is sponsoring a time of prayer for people to come together and corporately pray. The service is free and open to all. We're having a **Community Drive-In National Day of Prayer Service from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. on May 5th** at the North McMorrان Parking Lot, Bard St., Port Huron. Tune in to 90.7 Hope FM to listen live. Various community leaders will be leading times of prayer for specific areas.

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**  
**April 11, 2022**  
**GATHER, GRACE, GROW, GO**

Financial: Monthly **giving** has decreased year to date. Compared to our approved budget, the shortfalls have been approximately:

- 1% for January
- 2% for February
- 4% for March

Many factors contribute to ups and downs in monthly giving, so your council is not unduly concerned at this point. However, we will continue to monitor income and expenses so that we can stay within our 2022 budget.

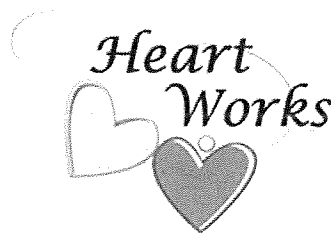
Stewardship: The goal is to have a permanent rotating **monthly calendar** assembled for the June Ray. Remember to sign up on the sheets in the narthex for how you would most like to participate in Sunday services. We are looking forward to "**Thank You Sunday**" which will be May 15<sup>th</sup>. Many invitations have already gone out.

Property: Folks from Goodwill industries began **cleaning** the church on April 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are willing to train on the use of the Automatic External Defibrillator (**AED**), please contact Marcus Middleton. **Insurance** coverage for the shed in the east parking lot is being procured at minimal cost.

Parish Education: In-person **Sunday School** continues on May 8 and 22 from 9:45 to 10:45. **VBS** will be on August 1-5 from 5:30 to 7:30. A light dinner will be served to the students. Our theme is *Discovery on Adventure Island*. Throughout 2022 **Thrivent Choice Dollars** will be designated for VBS. The books clogging up the senior high youth room will soon become fodder for a **book sale**. Let Lisa Schleicher or Kathy Strauss know if you will help sort and display.

A new **Gift Policy** is in the works and an **Endowment Fund** is being created to ensure the discipleship and faithfulness of the congregations of St. Paul well into the future.

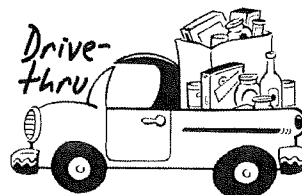
Next council meeting is May 9 at 6:30. All are welcome; please join us!



**HEART WORKS** is meeting again at church!!!

We meet the first Tuesday of every month, unless it is

a holiday, from 10 until noon. Please come join us as we knit, crochet, or loom items to share with those who are in need. You will find us in the activity room. Mark your calendar, and join us on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kathy Strauss, 810-985-5361.



**Food Truck**

**FOOD TRUCK**  
Date: May 19<sup>th</sup>

Time: Be there by  
**10:00 AM**

**Distribution starts at 11:00 AM**

**Place: St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**WE NEED 25-30 VOLUNTEERS...**

To help register families,  
put food into cars and  
to direct parking etc.

There will be a signup sheet in  
**The Narthex**

**BE A VOLUNTEER**

We will also need extra boxes &  
plastic grocery bags to put the food in.

## ALTAR FLOWERS



If you wish to sponsor altar flowers, there are signup sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

### **There are still many Sundays available.**

Cost of the flowers is \$25 per Sunday sponsored. Please include your payment with your regular offering with the amount listed under the "other" line and "flowers" written on the line. If you don't have offering envelopes, put payment in an envelope indicating your name and that the payment is for altar flowers.

## 2022 Church Council

Marilyn Knak, Council President  
Marcus Middleton, President Elect  
Marcia Conard, Council Secretary  
Julie Lusk, Treasurer  
Jane Dennis, Financial Secretary  
Kathy Strauss, Asst. Financial Secretary  
Karen Lee, Financial Representative  
Leanne Fortushniak, Evangelism Rep  
Leann Smith, Parish Ed Rep  
Ivan Smith, Properties Rep  
Diane Welsh, Stewardship Rep  
Sue Wilson, Worship Rep  
Lucy Fabick, Youth Rep  
Cathy Stuewer, Youth Team Rep



Our Church congregation's success depends as much on members' sharing of their time and talents as it does on their tithing. That said, as we continue to transition back to in-sanctuary worship services, we are looking for members to share in the duties and tasks associated with worship services, specifically serving as ushers and lectors at this time. The Stewardship Committee will be placing sign-ups on the Church bulletin board for volunteers for these duties, or you can call or e-mail the Church office, Diane Welsh (Stewardship Committee Chair) or Karen Lee (who representing Church Council has been leading this initial return to in-sanctuary worship.

As we build this list of volunteers, we plan to work toward having a calendar reflecting an assigned rotation of those duties, similar to how it was handled pre-pandemic. Those of us who have been handling the tasks will share notes and work with you on what duties are involved...Like the saying goes, "Many hands make for lighter work" so thanks in advance for sharing your time, talents to help our Church be successful!



**Save the Date!**  
**Vacation Bible School is coming!**  
**August 1-5.**  
**Watch for more details soon.**

### **Our Daily Bread Devotionals**

The June/July/August 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.



**Just a reminder** 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 Lutheran .com](http://stpaul Lutheran .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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### **Prayer's certain payoff**

Prayers prayed in the Spirit never die until they accomplish God's intended purpose. His answer may not be what we expected, or when we expected it, but God often provides much more abundantly than we could think or ask. He interprets our intent and either answers or stores up our prayers. Sincere prayers are never lost [and] will never be wasted or go unrewarded.

—Missionary Wesley Duewel