

From the Pastor's Desk

Advent is coming! It will look different than in years past – as so much of our year has in 2020. Our theme for on-line worship this year will be “I Believe Even When...”. The history of humanity is fraught with pain – especially the pain that comes accompanied by fear and leads to oppression and violence of one people against another. This is the world into which Jesus was born and through which his teachings would challenge and call for transformation. The opening words of an anonymous Jewish poet, “I believe in the sun, even when the sun is not shining,” were scrawled on a wall during the Holocaust. This theme song for our season calls us to examine our penchant for annihilating fear by annihilating each other. The power of story and light will call us to a different response – transformation and reconciliation through hope, love, joy and peace. This Advent and Christmas, let us fill the night with music and light and affirm and act on the reasons why we can still “believe, even when” we are discouraged.

There will be several opportunities to experience Advent in different ways this year. Rather than gathering on Wednesday evening for dinner, worship and craft we will be offering Advent kits for you to experience Advent at home. These kits will include the book “Faithful Families – for Advent & Christmas”, devotionals, crafts and more to help you experience and learn about Advent. We are making 25 kits through the generosity of a Thrivent Action Team Grant. They will be available to the first 25 people who pick them up at church on **Tues., Nov. 24** from **4-6pm** or **Wed., Nov. 25 10-noon**. These kits are NOT just for houses with children under the age of 12. They are intended for ALL ages. Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 29 – join me as we prepare for the birth of Jesus!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie



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!

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

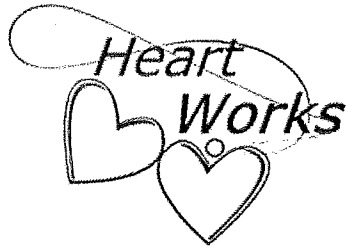
The latest edition of “Our Daily Bread Devotions” has arrived. We have placed a stack of them in the Neighborhood Box outside the office door. It is located next to our Prayer Box. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a copy.

Help Wanted

Do you have a passion for video editing and/or technology? Pastor Bonnie is looking for someone to assist her in creating/editing recordings for worship. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Bonnie at pastorbonniek@gmail.com for more information.

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.



Heart Works hasn't been able to meet since March, but I know that many of you

have continued to knit at home. I will be taking our hats and scarves to the Mid-City Nutrition soup kitchen in November, so I will need to collect them soon. If anyone has hats and/or scarves to donate, I will be collecting them the week of November 9th. Pastor Bonnie has offered to place our "Kiki's Hats" tub outside the front door of the church on Monday, the 9th, between 6pm and 8pm, on Tuesday, the 10th, between 9am and 11am, and on Wednesday, the 11th, between 2pm and 4pm. If possible, please drop off your knitting projects during this time. If these times do not work for you, please call me at 985-5361, and we will figure out another plan. Thank you so much for your contribution to help those in need stay a little warmer this winter.

Kathy Strauss,
Heart Works Ministry

Community Foundation Grant

On behalf of the Community Foundation and the Karen Lee Donor-Advised Fund, we received a grant to be used to support our boiler repairs. The letter from the Community Foundation expressed their gratitude for all of the work we do in our community. A huge thank you to the Community Foundation and to Karen Lee for their generosity with this grant for seed money for our boiler repair.

The Blue Water Global Mission Team is Still at Work!

With the pandemic we have temporarily changed our implementation strategy, but we are remaining faithful to our calling to support God's people on a global scale. The BWGMT team voted to support 4 global missions financially with \$250 each as funds have been raised and dedicated for this purpose. The missions are: Sandy Bay Light House Ministries (orphanage) in Honduras; missionaries Mark and Kaycee Thompson traveling to Kyrgyzstan, Russia; SERRV; and Food for the Poor.

Sandy Bay Lighthouse Ministries provides a loving, safe home for at risk children and a quality bilingual Christian education to prepare them for a secure future.

Mark and Kaycee Thompson are missionaries through Assembly of God called to spend 2 years in Kyrgyzstan, Russia establishing a Christian church.

Serrv empowers farmers and artisans in disadvantaged communities to earn income and fair wages paid in advance through the work of their hands.

Food for the Poor feeding and water mission supports impoverished people in 17 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

We are also donating funds to purchase items for the apartment under construction for the leaders of Living Hope Ministries in Haiti.

We ask that you continue to pray for our team, especially for guidance on faithfully continuing global mission work during unprecedented times.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2020 Report**

This was the twelfth year for our Community Garden at St. Paul and it turned out to be a bumper record breaking year. This year we donated **14,500 pounds** of produce to Mid City Nutrition, and people at our August food truck.

2009	860 pounds	2015	5500 pounds
2010	2800 pounds	2016	10,800 pounds
2011	4300 pounds	2017	8700 pounds
2012	8400 pounds	2018	6750 pounds
2013	5850 pounds	2019	5310 pounds
2014	7500 pounds	2020	14,500 pounds

The Grand Total is **81,270 pounds** since the garden was started in 2009.

We rented out 10'X10' plots for a deposit of \$10.00 per plot. If the gardener wanted more than 1 plot they could have more. We rented out a total of 62 plots to a total of 21 gardeners. The \$10.00 deposit was nonrefundable which will help pay the garden operating expenses. The gardeners were still responsible for taking care of their plot(s) and cleaning them up at the end of the season.

The Church's part of the garden was over ½ acre and we had a total of 36 helpers this year. There were 18 members from St. Paul and 17 non-members who helped in the garden. Six were Master Gardeners. All help is greatly appreciated and I would like to give everyone who helped **a big thank you**. We can always use additional help next year. Please let me know if you would like to help.

We had a large assortment of garden produce consisting of green beans, lima beans, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, green peppers, potatoes, several types of squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, broccoli and kale.

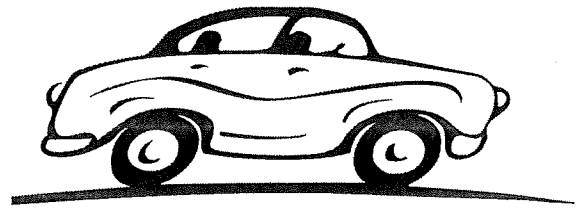
Every year we try some new things in the garden. This year we applied about 30 yards of composted horse manure and plowed it under. We used new plant spacings on the squash, cucumbers, cantaloupe, and watermelon. We used raised rows on some tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, corn and squash. The raised rows worked well. There were sunflowers for the bees who survived the previous winter for the first time. Also, the weather was great for growing things this year. The hot days just under 90 degrees were ideal and the dew every morning helped us get through the dry period. We have about 40 yards of composted cow manure to spread on the garden next spring before it is plowed.

The garden was worked up and the rye cover crop was planted on October 19th. If anyone has questions about the Community Garden or how we do certain things, please feel free to call me at 810-434-2380.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Strauss

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED
IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN IN 2020**

Bill Westermann
Bob Hammar
Bruce Faulkner
Byron Hazely
Chevy Hernandez
Cindy Duncan
Dale Klos
David Massey
Denny Lesinski
Gary Duncan
Gerry Reckker
Jessie
John Lusk
Julie Lusk
Julie Tumonds
Julius Runk
Kathy Strauss
Kim Sanford
Marilyn Knak
Mary Ann Herrman
Mary Faulkner
Melody Shank
Michelle Gardener
Mike Shank
Mike Welsh
Nancy Gardner
Pastor Bonnie Klos
Pat
Pete Lesinski
Polly Miller
Rick Hanselman
Ron Papke
Ron Reckker
Ruth Habalewski
Sandy Lashbrook
Scott Herber



*Drive-In Worship
And Annual Meeting
November 1*

Ushers wearing masks will direct traffic to help you get in line on the paved parking lot side.

People **MUST** stay in their cars

ONE service – 9:30 – Annual Meeting will be immediately following worship.

Service will be approx. 45 minutes

No admittance to the church building – Port-a-potty will be available

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

Bulletins (including hymns) will be provided for each person – keep them and recycle them at home

Offering collected at a station next to the ushers

Communion will be offered to you in your car. Please wear a mask as Pastor Bonnie approaches your car.

Please bring your Annual Report with you – no additional copies will be available.

The Annual Meeting can also be attended via Zoom on your computer/smartphone at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8109829853> or see the article about joining without a computer.

In case of inclement weather including, but not limited to heavy rain, lightning, snow worship will be cancelled. Announcement will be on Facebook and our website



A Big Note of *Thanks....

*To the following St. Paul members who volunteered to help maintain the flower beds and herb garden throughout the summer:

Nancy Herber, Donna Sanderson, Joan Fleming, Mike & Diane Welsh.

To **Marilyn Beals for providing the mum in the front of the church.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

October 12, 2020

Rich Cochrill led our Chapter 8 discussion of "The Church of Us vs Them."

Jacques Merkau was a guest at our meeting and reviewed the bids that we have received so far for the boiler project.

Council approved the Proposed Budget for 2021.

Council approved the Agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Final plans for Annual Meeting were discussed.

Our next outdoor worship will be November 1 at 9:30 am, followed by the Annual Meeting.



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!

Beyond the Bible Book Discussion Group

Our next book is The Brothers of Auschwitz by Malka Adler.

Please read the Prologue – Chapter 5 for the Zoom gathering on Nov 8 at 12:00 noon.

If the Congregational Annual Meeting is moved to this date due to inclement weather, the Zoom gathering will be at 1:00.

