

From the Pastor's Desk

Our "Dessert First" Stewardship Appeal is well under way. Cookies have been delivered with brochures and a letter from Kay Schnur (on behalf of the Stewardship Committee) and me. We have heard Temple Talks on the Tune-In process and future ministry and new technology for the sanctuary. Nov. 4 we will hear a Temple Talk about a feasibility study for possible expansion of our building. This is a very exciting time to be part of the people of God at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Our Stewardship Appeal is part of the benefits of participating with the Rise-Up Campaign through the synod. We have been working with a consultant through Stewardship for All Seasons to help us with designing and printing all the materials we are using to help inform and motivate each of us about the possibilities that are ahead of us and the funds that are needed to turn our possibilities into reality. We are hoping that by motivating each of us about the needs of our congregation and community, you will feel called to participate in our "Dessert First" Stewardship Appeal.

This will be the first time in many years that we have used Statement of Intent forms that will be returned to the church as part of worship. This is a leap of faith for the Stewardship Team. We will be mailing the Statement of Intent forms to each house the first of November. On Nov. 11, you will be asked to bring your Statement of Intent to worship.

Your gifts make a difference. We celebrate generosity as we are reminded of God's blessings to us and how we can show our gratitude by "Dessert First" giving. My door is always open if you have any questions.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie



A Note from the Treasurer

Bills and payroll are scheduled to be paid November 8th and November 21st. Please submit paperwork at least one day prior to these dates in order for checks to be issued.

Church Council

Julie Lusk, Council President
Jim Weston, President Elect
Cathy Stuewer, Council Secretary
Diane Merkau, Treasurer
Sue Atfield, Financial Secretary
Paige Koglin, Asst. Financial Secretary
Don Strauss, Financial Representative
Laurie Morris, Evangelism Rep
Amy Lutz, Parish Education Rep & Chair
Chris Matts, Properties Rep & Chair
Kay Schnur, Stewardship Rep
Cindy Duncan & Amy Fabick, Worship Reps
Alex Stuewer, Youth Representative
Rich Cochill, Youth Team Chair

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING



There will be one worship service on Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. The Annual Meeting will be immediately following worship.

In addition to the regular business conducted at the Annual Meeting, we will be voting on potential heating and air conditioning unit replacement within the next year with cost not to exceed \$20,000.00. Copies of the three bids we recently obtained will be available for review at the Annual Meeting or may be viewed in the Church office.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS October 8, 2018

By the time you read this we will know (or be close to knowing) who our Church Council members will be for 2019. A huge thank you goes out to those who have stepped up to serve our congregation by holding one of these positions and agreeing to work with each other to continue leading our church forward. I have told many people during this past year, it is an exciting time to be on Church Council and the committees that we have here at St. Paul. There are so many amazing things going on and it is uplifting to see the variety of people who are willing to participate and be a part of our growth.

Stewardship has worked very diligently to learn about and share our new giving program, Stewardship for All Seasons. You have received delicious cookies and informational brochures regarding this program, in addition to hearing more about it and our goals these past few weeks. It is our hope that our members will prayerfully consider how they can help us continue to grow and the do whatever we can to reach out and share God's love with those around us.

The Evangelism Team hosted a drive through trick-or-treat on Halloween for our neighbors and community members with a sweet tooth! Thank you to those who helped out and/or donated items for this first-time event.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, remember to give thanks for your family and friends here at St. Paul!



Holy Land Trip- May 6-15, 2019

There are still a few spots open for our trip. You don't have to be a member of St. Paul to join us – it is open to the community, friends and family. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Bonnie.



HOLIDAY COOKIE WALK

DECEMBER 1st, 2018

10 a.m. until Noon

\$7.00 per pound

REMEMBER.....we will need at least 2 batches of your favorite cookies please. Our faith that our congregation will bake and provide us with cookies is unfaltering! In all these years we have never been disappointed thank you to all.

CHURCH DIRECTORY



2018

The updated Church Directories are available for you to pick up after each service.

There is a post-it with your name on your directory. Please leave the post-it after taking your directory so that we know you received it. One directory per family has been printed. There is a page in the back to keep your directory current by adding new names.



All Saint's Worship on Nov. 4

We come together for one worship service at 9:30am to remember all the saints that have died since November 2017. It is customary for us to light a candle in remembrance. This year we are inviting people to bring a photo or small item or memento of a loved one who has died to place on display with the candles that will be lit. This will be part of worship for All Saint's Sunday.

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR 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!

Worship & Music

We have yet to find a Choir Director to permanently fill the opening. We have planned services up to Fall and are open to any feedback on services. Please let us know how you feel. Thank you.
Amy Fabick & Cindy Duncan

Holiday Shopping that Helps those in Need Locally and Globally

The High School Youth Group is hosting a holiday Serrv sale at the Miracle Marketplace at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday November 3 from 10:00am-3:00pm. The church address is 811 Wall St. in Port Huron. The event will have a variety of non-profit vendors selling unique gifts and all proceeds support the mission of the vendors. Non-perishable food items and hygiene items are being collected at the event for local homeless shelters and food banks. Youth will be helping during the sale (look for a sign-up sheet for shifts in the narthex) and 10% of the funds from items sold go to our youth group. Serrv is a non-profit organization that engages in fair trade and empowers small-scale artisans and farmers to earn a fair living from their work, breaking the cycle of poverty and building stronger communities worldwide. Any unsold items will be available for purchase at St. Paul after service on November 4.



When shopping online @ Amazon, please use AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. St. Paul is one of the organizations you can select.

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 2018 to May 2019. Our NPO number is RK460. **Registration is online only.** Last quarter 27 families earned \$112.05 in rewards for St. Paul.

2) Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for the December Ray is Sunday, November 18, 2018. 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

A simple line drawing of a woman with long hair, wearing a dress, and holding a large scroll that she is reading.

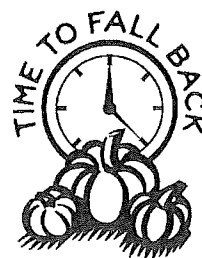


TUNE IN TEAM UPDATE

Thank you from the Tune In Team to those of you that took the time to complete the Survey form we recently provided. The team has reviewed the responses and will be continuing to meet with “focus groups” to discuss the questions that were a part of the survey. These results will help us to continue to learn about ways this congregation feels we could best serve our community.

The Tune In Team attended a second training session on October 19 and 20, meeting with team members of other congregations who are also going through this process, sharing our progress and listening to theirs.

Just a reminder – the Tune In Team members are Mary Smith, Jim Ketchum, Leann Fortushniak, Carole Warwick, Julie Lusk and Pastor Bonnie. Please feel free to share your thoughts or ask questions of any team member.



Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 3 before you go to bed.

Together in Thanks



Together in Faith

Community Thanksgiving

Worship Service

Tuesday, November 20th

7:00 pm

**Restoration Christian
Community Church**

3201 Gratiot

Port Huron

Join us as we worship

**God through prayer,
Scripture and song.**



Kansas pastor Jack Wellman has been credited with the insight that “there is a certain genius in generosity.” He explains that when we open our hands — figuratively speaking — to allow something to pass through our fingers, rather than holding it with tightly clenched fists, God can give us new blessings.

“God cannot pour more into hands that are already clinging tightly to what they hold,” says Wellman. Whether material goods or time, ideas or talents, money or energy, the gifts God has given us so generously are to be shared just as freely with others. With our hands continually open to receive, give and receive again, God’s genius cycle of generosity goes on and on.

Blue Water

AREA CHURCHES

Connect, Serve, Collaborate in the name of Christ