

## From the Pastor's Desk

As I look to this fall, I am deeply grateful for the people of God at St. Paul – for the ways that new leadership is stepping forward; for the intense listening the Tune-In Team is accomplishing; for the dedicated, intentional work the Stewardship committee is doing to prepare for our Stewardship for All Season's "Dessert First" campaign this fall; for the faith questions our confirmation students ask; and for each of the holy conversations I share with folks after worship, in my office, in hospital rooms and around town. This place is not stagnating. We are moving forward as we dream of a future together based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and serving our neighbors.

Each time our Tune-In Team meets we close our time together with this prayer:

*O God you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

God has been with us the past 100 years and we trust that as we move forward – not exactly sure where we are going – that God is with us now and in the future.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Bonnie*



## A Note from the Treasurer

Bills and payroll are scheduled to be paid October 11<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 Cochrell, 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.

---

## 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!

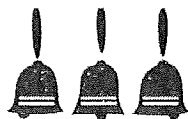
## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

September 10, 2018

The Budget Committee has begun working on the budget for presentation at our Annual Meeting on November 4, 2018. The Nominating Committee is encouraging our members to become an integral part of the many positive things happening at our church. The Evangelism and Stewardship Committees are busy working on programs for us to expand our outreach in a variety of ways. (Don't forget to bring in pet items for our donations to Harbor Impact!)

Five of our Council members took advantage of the Lay Leadership Training that was held on August 25 in Troy regarding Council meetings. There were a number of positive things we learned and took away from this session. In addition to the topics that were addressed, perhaps the most heartwarming was that we, St. Paul Lutheran in Port Huron, Michigan, are incredibly lucky to be who we are. Our Council meetings are thoughtful and peaceful. Our congregation genuinely likes/loves each other. We are, at the present time, in a positive financial position. Not every congregation is this fortunate. We give thanks for who we are and how well we work together toward our goals, and we look forward to expanding our good fortune to include even more people in the months and year ahead.

Please keep in mind that these Lay Leadership Training sessions are a result of the Rise Up campaign we so successfully participated in at the beginning of this year. We hope many more of you will take the opportunity to attend a session in the future.



*Handbell Choir*

Bell players are needed. No experience is necessary! Join us on Wednesday @ 6 pm. All Are welcome.

## APPLE PIE DAYS

**October 10th** Crust Crew 9:30 AM -12:30 PM.

**October 11th & 12th** 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM assembly of pies.

**October 12th** pie pick-up **2 PM - 4 PM**. And as always you may collect your pie on Sunday morning October 14th after each service.

### **WE ARE NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR PIES.**

We have a good source to purchase apples. If you would like to help defray the cost of apples, donations are gladly accepted. These are some top notch pies, so remember to ask your family, friends & neighbors if they would like to order. All proceeds from the Pie Sale go to fund projects under the banner of WELCA. **We have jobs for all skill levels**, from washing apples to rolling pie crust. And **if you are willing we can teach you** to do any of the parts of the process.



---

### **Movie Night**

Jason Reim has a huge passion for movies and enjoys sharing a wide variety of genres with us. On **Sat., Oct. 13 at 6pm** we will watch the movie that has won the most votes cast during September. Our youth will be selling hotdogs before the movie starts. Join us for an entertaining evening – bring a friend!!



---

### **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.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

## Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 7 at 2:00 p.m., we invite you to bring your pets to church!

This will be our 4th annual Blessing of the Animals. Bring your dog, cat, parakeet, guinea pig or any other animal that is a pet. This traditional rite is conducted in memory of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Bring yourself and your pets to the grassy area by the garden. There will be a brief ceremony, followed by short individual blessings. Treats for pets will be provided.

---

## Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday

Lucy Fabick, Amelia Stuewer and Brooke Wolschlagler have been working hard the past two years in Confirmation class. They have each met the expectations of class, provided hours of community service individually in addition to the creative ways their small group has served the community and participated in fellowship events. They attended a retreat and Confirmation camp. Their Faith Projects were creative and demonstrated their faith. Join these incredible young people as they affirm their baptism on October 28th at the 10:30 worship service. A reception with cake and punch will follow worship.

---

## Harbor Impact is celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Impact Day-

We are collecting pet supplies (new or gently used) including toys, food, treats, blankets to support families with pets that visit Harbor Impact each month. Please bring your donations to church before Oct. 7 when we will bless them during worship.

## Food for the Poor

Please join us **October 14th** to hear The Rev. Kurt Hutchens speak at **both** services about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Pastor Hutchens will share personal stories about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another. He will also do a presentation between services at 9:15 in the Activity Room. Pastor Hutchens is from Dearborn, MI and now resides with his family in Pinckney, MI where he serves Shalom Lutheran Church (ELCA). While the owner of a health club he heard the Lord's call and went to seminary. Pastor Hutchens received a Masters of Divinity from General Theological Seminary in New York. He has a passion for people experiencing the transforming love of Christ. Please join us in welcoming Pastor Hutchens! Pastor Bonnie will lead worship that day.



## DESSERT FIRST

Hoping that you will be home on the afternoon of October 14<sup>th</sup>, the youth have volunteered to deliver **DESSERT FIRST** to your home, along with information explaining the fall Stewardship drive. What does dessert first have to do with stewardship?

As the Stewardship Campaign unfold this year and we look toward the goals we are being guided to set for next year, we ask you to look at the three ideas, pray about their implementation, and review your own commitment to God's work through this congregation.

Will you support our growth in these new areas? Can you give time and energy to make them happen? Will you pray for their success? Can you designate weekly funding to help raise the \$20,000 needed to see these projects through?

The Stewardship Committee has been attending training through the Rise Up opportunity to be involved in Mike Ward's Stewardship for All Seasons and will be helping you understand how this fund raising experience will add new dimensions to our ministry and supply the additional necessary funds. Once you receive your dessert and your brochure, we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the program.

The St. Paul Stewardship Committee

## TUNE IN TEAM UPDATE

Thank you to each of the 74 people that completed the Assessment form that was distributed last month. This information is being evaluated by *Lead*, the organization whose materials we are using for the Tune In process. They are preparing a report that the team will be reviewing with our coach on September 20. After we have had an opportunity to review and discuss these results, we will be preparing a brief (3 – 5 questions) survey that we will once again ask for your help in completing. Our final goal will be to determine how this congregation would like to grow and reach out to our neighbors and the community we live in to share God's love. Your help and assistance in reaching this goal are invaluable.

---

### *Women's Retreat "Joy of Forgiveness"* *October 5-6*

WELCA is pleased to offer a retreat here at St. Paul for women. We will gather on Friday night for our first learning session, including a movie. We will return at 8:30 Saturday morning for a continental breakfast and several more learning sessions. Lunch and dinner will also be provided. There will be time for crafts, conversations, a walk outside, and reflection. We will close our time together with worship, ending at 8 pm. The cost will be \$25 per person. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. All women are invited...bring a friend!

## 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

---

### FOOD TRUCK REPORT 8/22/18

A huge thank you to the 24 great volunteers who helped with the food truck on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had 67 families come to get food for 241 individuals. Twelve families came to a food truck for the first time and 33 families were over the age of 60. The excess food was donated to Harbor Impact for distribution to more people. The total amount of food that was received was 6,593 pounds.

This Food Truck was paid for with a grant that was made in memory of Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, which faithfully ministered to its members and to the community of Northeast Detroit for 73 years. It is an expression of the continuing ministry and faith of the former Mt. Zion community.

---

Diane & Splash Kids,

Thank you so much for the awesome comfort bags for the kiddos we get in the shelter! The kids that come here are often scared and come with nothing, so these comfort bags will come in handy for making the children more at home! Keep up the great work!  
God Bless ♥ ~EVA'S place STAFF~

### 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](http://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 November Ray is Sunday, October 14, 2018. Articles may be submitted via e-mail ([stpaulww@comcast.net](mailto: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



---

### 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 momento 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.

## Things I Bet You Didn't Know

### about Playing Bells

'I thought I could only play one bell (years ago) but now I can play 4.'

'If there is a bell that only plays once in a song, I can squeeze it in amongst bells that I usually play.'

'I was sure that I would be the only one that couldn't read music & I would be embarrassed, but I found out I'm not the only one, & this is a learning process.'

'I like it that we figure things out as a group. If there is a tough spot, someone helps me out by taking a bell that I can't play at that point.'

'No one needs to do more than they can do.'

'It was a challenge at first, but it gets easier with time & practice.'

'We all help each other.'

'I learned that I can ring 2 bells in one hand (if they are small ones).'

'It's lots more fun than I expected it to be.'

'There were times when we started to work on a song that I wondered if this was **really** even a **song**. But working on it & getting it right is a huge sense of accomplishment.'

'I like it that the director tells us what the timing is for each song, & the bells we need for that song. You pick up a little bit of music reading every time you come.'

'I always have the responsibility for the same bells, week after week, so I get more familiar with them & how to use them.'

'It's good that we start small (& easy), & work on things gradually. We don't play something for church until we are ready.'

'We pray together & support one another.'

'This is a gift to God.'

'You don't have to read music to ring bells. We color code everything!'

## ***ARE YOU A CARROT, AN EGG, OR A COFFEE BEAN?***

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen.

She filled three pots with water. In the first, she placed carrots, in the second, eggs, and in the last, ground coffee beans.

She let them sit and boil without saying a word. In about twenty minutes, she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

She brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma.

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity—boiling water—but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter.

When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?

***Think: Which am I?***

Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate to another level? How do you handle adversity?

***ARE YOU A CARROT, AN EGG, OR A COFFEE BEAN?***