

## From the Pastor's Desk

Everything we have done in the past six months has taken extra planning, flexibility and multiple options. As we prepare for our Annual Congregational Meeting, this is especially true. In order for us to hold a legal Congregational Meeting there are two requirements 1) people must be able to hear 2) people must be able to speak. The Executive Committee met to discuss a variety of options for the best way for us to conduct this year's Annual Congregational Meeting. Per our constitution, we will hold it on the first Sunday in November (Nov. 1). We will have one drive-in style worship service at 9:30am. Immediately following worship there will be an opportunity for any guests or visitors to leave. They will be parked along the trees for any easy departure. Due to the possible length of time folks will be present at church, there will be a port-a-potty available. We will use the same FM transmitter to enable everyone to hear (requirement #1). The ushers will wear masks and gloves. They will bring a wireless microphone to cars for those who wish to speak (requirement #2). For those not comfortable in coming to the church, they can join us using zoom. The link will be <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8109829853> Please see the article about joining without a computer for those without computer access. Through technology we will be able to ensure that those joining us via Zoom will be able to hear and speak.

In case of inclement weather, the Annual Congregational Meeting will be moved to Nov. 8 at 10:30 – again as a drive-in with Zoom. There will not be a drive-in worship service that day. If there is any question about the weather, please check the website and

Facebook for notice. This is where we will need to be flexible.

As usual, Annual Reports will be mailed to each family which include committee reports, Officer reports, minutes from the last Congregational meeting, nominations for officers and committee representatives for 2021 and the proposed budget for 2021. Please remember to bring it with you to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Nov. 1 as copies will NOT be available that day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Bonnie*

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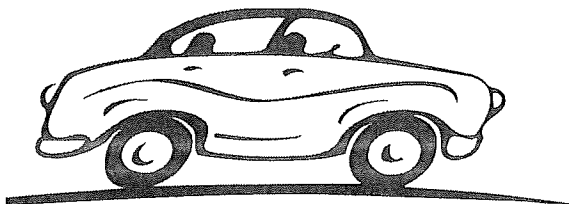
### **Zoom Meetings without a computer-**

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!

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### **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.



## Drive-In Worship

October 4

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

People **MUST** stay in their cars

Two services – 8:00 & 10:30

Zoom social hour @ 9:00

Services will be approx. 45 minutes

No admittance to the church building – bathrooms are **NOT** 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.

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 our website.

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### Paul's Guys

Paul's Guys is meeting monthly to discuss N.T. Wright's book on Ephesians. It isn't too late to join the group. All men are welcome! The next meeting is on Oct. 20 @ Scott Herber's house on Strawberry Lane near the church. If you are interested, please contact Ivan Smith or Rich Cochrell for details.

### Re-Opening the Building Committee

The re-opening committee has been meeting regularly. They have done some work to prepare our building – they have removed all the soft chairs in the sanctuary and narthex; cleaned the orange chairs and brought them into the building; gotten a bid on sanitizing the sanctuary, narthex and bathrooms between services; removed all the hymnals and put them in storage and more. Currently, we are waiting for our county to move to phase five (we are currently in phase four). This will bring us one step closer. We continue to follow the guidelines that were offered to us by our synod, the CDC, and our insurance company for the safest way for our most vulnerable members to gather.



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### Blessing of the Animals

On **Sunday, October 4** at **1:00 p.m.**, we invite you to bring your pets to church!

This will be our 6th 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 service, followed by short individual blessings. Please remember to wear your mask – we naturally physically distance for the benefit of our pets and this year for each other.

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### Additional Memorial Gifts:

St. Paul is thankful for memorial gifts received.

In memory of Richard Falk by: Joan Fleming

In memory of Jim Weston by: Joan Fleming, Rich and Pricilla Cochrell

## In Appreciation of Your Continued Commitment

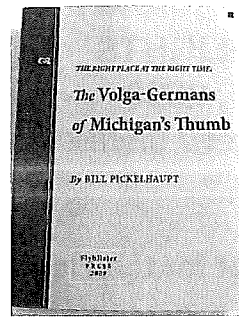
A wise council, guided by Connie Golubinski, set aside three month's mortgage payments, should we experience difficult times and require funding to make our monthly loan payment. These are indeed difficult times, yet your continued generosity in donations toward GWIP (God's Work in Progress) has made it unnecessary to draw upon these funds. We continue to reduce our mortgage with the required payment, sometimes more. Thank you for your generous and constant response. With September's payment, the loan balance dropped below \$50,000, another milestone.

We joyously celebrate God's goodness and grace despite the pandemic challenges and look forward to returning to worship together in the church we remodeled, almost unable to remember what it used to look like.

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### Beyond the Bible-

Throughout Covid-19 we have continued to meet via Zoom. In fact, we have been meeting twice a month – after all there's not much else to do and we love getting to "see" each other and connect! We have read two books this summer – "Searching for Sunday" by Rachel Held Evans and "The Grand Weaver" by Ravi Zacharias. We will be starting a new book in October. We haven't made our selection yet, but we all are ready for a slightly "lighter" read – maybe fiction or historical fiction. ALL are welcome to join us. We usually meet on Sundays at noon. Bring your lunch so we can eat together. We begin with table grace, catch up with each other and then dive into our discussion. If you would like to join our discussion, please let Lisa Schleicher or Pastor Bonnie know and we will send you an invite.



I recently returned to Michigan and have 15 copies of my book 'The Right Place at the Right Time: the Volga Germans of Michigan's Thumb,' which are offered for sale at \$30.00 per copy. All

proceeds will go to St. Paul's Lutheran. The books can be ordered through me and I will mail out copies. My printer in Ann Arbor went bankrupt a few years ago, so there will be no more copies printed.

Thanks,  
Bill Pickelhaupt (830) 481-3758  
billpick11@gmail.com

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### Reformation Sunday- October 25

Our Reformation celebration this year will be on-line. We will be reminded that we are always reforming – always being made new. Please wear RED as you watch our service to celebrate this festival of the church year.



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### Apple Pie Sale: well sort of!

Covid has also affected this annual fundraiser. We rely on this event & the cookie walk for most of the money we hand out to the community in & outside of the Church walls SO this year a bit of a twist, Empty Pie Pan sale. For every \$10 you donate you will get one entry into a drawing to win one of 5 Apple Pies I will personally make. Donations can be made through the end of October and the pies will be awarded the week prior to Thanksgiving. To donate contact Susan Wilson at 810-984-8518 or send a text to 810-662-4740. Help us do His work here & now!

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

September 14, 2020

Rich Cochrell led our Chapter 7 discussion of "The Church of Us vs Them."

Council approved the ballot for the Election of Congregational Officers & Committee Reps.

Next Outdoor worship is October 4.

We are getting bids for repairs on the boiler.

Plans for the Congregational meeting were discussed.

Budget Committee is beginning their work.

Annual Reports are due September 28.



### Record Garden Production

As of the printing of this newsletter, we have already broken our record for pounds of produce donated to Mid-City Nutrition. As of Wednesday, September 23, we have donated 11,264 pounds!



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](http://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!



There will be one  
drive-in worship service on  
Sunday, November 1, 2020  
at 9:30 a.m.

The Annual Meeting will be  
immediately following worship.  
Please remember to bring your  
copy of the Annual Report as  
copies will not be available.

# Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

## CODE

A	1	B
D		E

F	2	G
H		I

K	3	L
M		N

O	4	R
S		T

U	5	V
W		Y

T  

4	1	3	3	4	4	2	4	1
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1	3	1	3	2	4	4	1	3
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2	4	4	2	4	1
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1	1	4	4	2	3	3	1	3	1
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3	3	4	5	4	2	1	4
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2	1	3	2	4	1
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Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)