



## From the Pastor's Desk

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your pastor for the past six years. This past Sunday I preached my last sermon to you. I spoke about my first sermon here at St. Paul when I said change was scary and how as Lutherans we struggle with change. Over the past six years I have said over and over again, "I won't change anything...but we will try lots of new things!"

I shared stories of all the things we have tried together – our cross we made from broken plates, cups and bowls; Advent dinners in the sanctuary; breakfast in the sanctuary as part of worship one summer; worship in the round for lent; The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss; How the Grinch Stole Worship; celebrating our 100 th anniversary; the Tune-In process with the Synod; Stewardship for All Seasons and our "Dessert First" campaign; mission trips with our high school youth to Blue Knob, PA and Copperhill, TN; Youth Gathering to Houston, TX; our trip to the Holy Land; our antiracism group and so much more! The reality is though... we did change- as a congregation we changed, individually you changed, I changed. God has been with us through all the changes... as we learned to serve our neighbors... as we grew to love one another... as we struggled through this pandemic. God as been at work in and among each of us... reminding us that we are beloved children of God every step of the way... even through the trips and falls. Change is about to happen now... you will be OK... you are strong, faithful people of God. Trust that God has a plan for you... individually and as the people of God at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The Spirit is already at work searching for your next pastor. As you wait... be kind to one another... trust that your leadership is doing their best... say "yes" when you are asked to try something new... pray for each other and for your next pastor... whomever they may be... God knows...trust the process.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your willingness to try new things so we could all be changed by the Spirit..

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Bonnie*

# THANK YOU!

Thank you!!

Thank you so much for the wonderful "Best of Bonnie" celebration after my final worship service! The ice-cream and fruit cups were delicious. Marilyn's jokes were awesome- I think you should save them for Holy Humor Sunday 😊 I will wear my autographed "St. Paul t-shirt" and feel surrounded by all of you. The banner Margaret and Carolyn made for me was beyond incredible - I will treasure it forever! The generosity of the Congregational Council and each of you was overwhelming. All the stories and kind wishes that were shared truly touched my heart. I will miss you all.

Grace and peace, Pastor Bonnie



## Garden

## Production

As of the printing of this newsletter, we have harvested over 7008 pounds of produce from our community garden. All the produce is donated to Mid-City Nutrition for the Soup Kitchen. We give thanks for all the volunteers that help each week. If you would like to join the crew, please contact Don Strauss for the next harvesting day and time.

## Online Giving

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!

**Save the Dates:**  
**Outdoor/Drive-in Worship-**  
**Join us for Drive-in/Outdoor worship**  
**October 10 & 24 @ 8:00 & 10:30am**  
**Bring your lawn chair and enjoy worship**  
**outdoors surrounded by God's**  
**creation. Masks are required until you**  
**get to your seat. All are welcome!**  
**Bathrooms will be open!**



## Food Truck Report 8/19/2021

A huge thank you to the 34 great volunteers who helped with the food truck. We had 171 families come to get food for 488 individuals. We distributed 10,388 pounds of food. One heaping box of food was left over and it was taken to Harbor Impact. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan did not charge for the basic (\$700.00) load of food. The cost of the extra protein that we ordered was \$187.28 which was paid for with a Thrivent Action team grant of \$250.00. The remainder of the grant money (\$62.72) was used to purchase 600 cups and lids for salad which were donated to Mid City Nutrition to help feed the hungry. There was no cost to our church for this food truck which was totally unexpected, but appreciated.

## 2021 Church Council

Rich Cochrill, *Council President*

Marilyn Knak, *President Elect*

Marcia Conard, *Council Secretary*

Julie Lusk, *Treasurer*

Susan Koglin, *Financial Secretary*

Jane Dennis, *Asst. Financial Secretary*

Karen Lee, *Financial Representative*

Leanne Fortushniak, *Evangelism Rep*

Danielle Golubinski, *Parish Ed Rep*

Marcus Middleton, *Properties Rep*

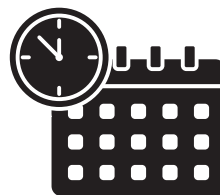
Ann Preimesberger, *Stewardship Rep*

Sue Wilson, *Worship Rep*

Lucy Fabick, *Youth Rep*

## Sunday School for Fall 2021

Martin Luther believed that teaching faith is a parent's responsibility. When we bring our children to the font to be baptized, we make promises to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the creed and the ten commandments. The church's responsibility is to support parents in their efforts to teach these components of faith. Last school year our Sunday School teachers created packets of lessons, crafts and more for their students. They mailed them or dropped them off at families' homes. As we look to this school year, there is concern about the safety of meeting in person. Our teachers would again like to provide these packets for our children ages 4 through grade 6 to help parents facilitate teaching their children. If you would like to receive packets approximately once a month, please contact the office at 810-982-9853 or email [stpaulww@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulww@comcast.net) with your child's name and age/grade in school.



## Nomination Time

The Nominations Committee has been working hard to fill council positions. Several people have been invited to consider serving as Treasure and President Elect and have declined for various reasons. Would **YOU** prayerfully consider serving as *Treasure* or *President Elect*, or if you know of someone, please contact the Nominating Committee.

**Grace and Peace**  
**The Nominating Committee**

# Blessing or Curse? - #2

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

September 13, 2021

In August's newsletter I urged us to resist the temptation to get back to business as usual, whether we are in the building or not. I also challenged us to imagine the people and places to whom and to which Jesus would have gone, and to follow him there.

After all, we know how to be church in one place...after more than 100 years we got that right!

Let's do some brainstorming:

- Communion on the corner?
- Ask questions during the sermon?
  - God sightings blog?
- Dissuade others from the notion that only believers darken our doors?
  - Confront the powers Jesus confronted such as the ELCA, political structures, corporations and institutions?
  - Bells in the plaza?
- Cultivate an attitude and behavior declaring that EVERYTHING IS SPIRITUAL?
- Chalk messages of the Gospel on sidewalks?
  - Mentor Bible study?
- Who are the under-served in our congregation, our community and how can we both hold a hand and leverage public resources for their needs?
- Which additional organizations and folks need to be heard?
  - Micro worshiping?
  - What else???

Let's hear your hopes and dreams, your crazy ideas, your old and new ideas, your grandkids' ideas. In brainstorming there are no bad ideas!

**Email me at [marandron@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marandron@sbcglobal.net)**

with "IDEAS" in the subject line or call me at

**586-864-6903.**

**Marilyn A. Knak**

*President Elect*

*Mark 16.15*

**Reopening Committee** - The next meeting will be October 7th, 7 PM, at the church. All meetings are open to guests.

**Nominations Committee** - There are two open positions at this time, president elect and treasurer.

**Wreaths Across America** - If anyone is interested in donating, information is available from the office.

**Prayer Concerns** - The prayer concerns should be directed to the office, and Cyndi will see that they are given to the pulpit supply pastor.

**Pastoral Care** - Anyone in need of pastoral care may contact Cyndi in the office or leave a voice message. If there is an immediate need, Ann Preimesberger may be contacted at 810-334-6290.

**Annual Meeting** - The annual meeting will be held on November 7th. There will be only one service.

*many thanks*

*Thank you for the well wishes, cards and prayers. They are much appreciated.*

*Diane Biskner*

# Men's Ministry



**PLEASE KNOW...**

Men's ministry can be designed in many ways depending on the men of the parish.

In some congregations it may be a single group of men who gather for one specific purpose. Some examples could be fellowship where men get together simply to share each other's company.

Another group may meet to share hunting information or provide extra meat for some less fortunate.

A group of men might meet to provide service, help to members of their church or the community.

The group of men at St. Paul gather for the purpose of studying, sharing, and strengthening each other in God's Word. Paul's Guys have just completed a study on the book of Ephesians. On September 28th a new study will begin on the book of Job.

If you would be interested in being a part of this study or starting another part of men's ministry, contact **Rich at 810-633-9404**

Anyone is welcome to attend any council or committee meeting at any time. Your input is welcome and needed now more than ever. Watch the newsletter for dates and times or call any council member to ask a question, raise an issue, or convey information. ***WE are the church, together.***

## **Our Daily Bread Devotionals**

The September/October/November 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. Large print editions are also available in the Neighborhood Box.



## **Send us your email address**

We are working to stay connected with more folks in a variety of ways. We are sending out weekly emails with what is happening the coming week, devotions, birthdays and prayer concerns. Your email address will NOT be sold to a third party. Currently, we have 113 email addresses. It is our goal to reach everyone who uses email (even if you only check it once a week). Please send the church office (stpaulww@comcast.net) your email address so you can receive the latest news and updates!

## **Office Hours**

**Tuesday 9am-2pm**

**Wednesday 9am - 2pm**

**Friday 9am-2pm**

**( while church is closed)**

