

## From the Pastor's Desk

This summer we have been using spiritual short films and gathering in small groups to share discussion questions about the film and our lives. The films are written and produced by Rob Bell – a theologian, pastor, author and speaker from Michigan. The idea behind this theme for the summer was to help us bring the 8:00 and 10:30 worshipping communities together – to help us get to know each other a little better. The discussion questions were meant to guide us through a wide variety of topics all centered around the Bible and our faith. When I preach on Sundays the congregation only gets to hear my thoughts, my interpretations of scripture. This summer we were able to hear from over 100 different people! A professor once told me, "one of the best ways you can be sure your students are understanding the material is to ask them to teach it to someone else." This summer I believe that the people of God learned more about their own faith by sharing (teaching) it with others. The more comfortable we are in sharing our faith with those we know, the more comfortable we will become in sharing our faith with our neighbors who we might not know.

The Evangelism team has been helping us recognize God sightings in our daily life this summer and giving us the opportunity to share them with each other. The easiest way to share God sightings is with people we know, and once we get comfortable talking about God with those we know, we can begin to talk about God with folks we don't know (or only casually know).

I am so grateful for your willingness to try something new this summer – to stretch yourselves in the uncomfortableness and to grow in your faith as you shared it with others.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Bonnie*



## A Note from the Treasurer

Bills and payroll are scheduled to be paid September 13 and September 27. Please submit paperwork at least one day prior to these dates in order for checks to be issued.

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## 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

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## 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!

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**REGULAR** **WORSHIP**  
SCHEDULE RESUMES  
September 9th  
Sunday 8 am & 10:30 am Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School

**Men's Cancer Support Group** will resume meetings September 4th.

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## *Worship & Music*

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

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## **Labor Day Weekend**

On September 2, we gather for the last time this summer at one worship service (9:30). To honor all those who "labor", you are invited to wear your work clothes to worship – for some of you that may be scrubs, a uniform, a business suit or jeans and a t-shirt. We will celebrate all professions – past, current or future as a part of worship. We will celebrate all the ways we have served our neighbors this summer through our Summer of Service. Don't forget to email your photos and experiences to Megan Hargrave at [meghargrave@yahoo.com](mailto:meghargrave@yahoo.com) to be included in the celebration. We will also be blessing backpacks of students and tote bags/briefcases of teachers as they prepare for the new school year. Please bring your backpack, tote bag or briefcase to worship.

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## **WELCA Annual Picnic – September 8**



ALL women of the congregation are invited to Laurie Morris' house (3475 Rabidue Road, Clyde) for our annual Potluck Picnic at **noon**. Join us for delicious food, friendly conversation and a short business meeting. Women, you don't want to miss this wonderful opportunity to gather in community!

## **FUN"KEY" FIFTH SUNDAY**



Are you thinking about volunteering to serve as an usher, lector, communion assistant, coffee hour host, greeter, acolyte, or altar guild member but are not quite sure what is involved? This is your chance to shadow someone already serving in these tasks and discover the "keys" to service in a "fun" way. On the fifth Sundays of September and December, we invite you to team up with the people guiding our worship experience. Learn from others what's involved and why they have chosen to serve in these ministry tasks. They can show you the ropes and answer your questions. Then if you decide that you can serve in one or more of these tasks, sign up to be a regular, giving of your time and talent.

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## *Desert First*



Full before you get to the dessert? Try this new twist on the Progressive Dinner. The order of the four courses will be switched, beginning with dessert and ending with appetizers. The Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 29. The cost will again be \$15 per person. A Thrivent Action Team grant will be used to supplement the expense, so that the proceeds from the dinner will help fund the fall Stewardship Program. Watch for the signup sheet, as there is a limit of 35 people.

Then, this fall ... everyone ... should be ready for a special delivery—Dessert First—introducing the **Stewardship for All Seasons** program, part of the funding you made available through your generous gifts to the ELCA Rise Up campaign.

## TUNE IN TEAM UPDATE

The Tune In Team is very excited that each of you is now included in this process. Hopefully, you have completed the 20 question Congregational Assessment that will help us grow deeper in faith and wider in mission. We expect to receive our written summary of these assessments shortly, and will be reviewing them with our coach. The next step will be to prepare a 3 to 5 question survey based on the assessment results, that we will need each of you to complete.

This is an exciting process for our congregation, and we are grateful that our Synod has provided us with this opportunity as part of the Rise Up campaign we were a part of at the beginning of this year. With the Synod's support and the participation of our congregation, we look forward to growing in our faith and finding ways to share the Good News and serve the needs of our neighbors and the community around us.

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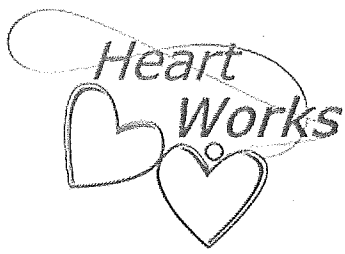
### *Women's Retreat "Forgiveness"* *October 5-6*

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!

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS August 9, 2018

Although it is summer and that time of year which is usually thought of as the "vacation season", the people and committees of our congregation are still at work serving St. Paul and our community. We are thankful that our financial position remains positive and thank you for continuing your support in that area. We have accepted three new members and welcome them to the St. Paul family. We served our community with another food truck on August 22 and the produce donations from our garden are on a par with what they were at this time last year. **Evangelism and Social Ministry** has some new ways for us to serve our neighbors and provide assistance to Samaritans, and they will be sharing these with you soon. The **Stewardship Committee** is busy planning the progressive dinner that will take place on September 29 and moving ahead with the new *Stewardship for All Seasons* campaign. The **Properties Committee** continues to make repairs and upgrades, as needed, to keep our facilities in tip-top shape. The **Sunday School** staff is preparing for the coming year and **Youth Ministry** is planning activities as well. As always, **Pastor Bonnie** has been busy both here at St. Paul and serving on Synod and Blue Water Area Churches committees.

Please take a little of your time to assist in whatever area is of interest to you and maybe even volunteer to serve on Church Council in the coming year. It is an important part of our friendly, loving family here at St. Paul and a great way to be part of the exciting times we are experiencing.



*Heart Works*  
**Prayer Shawl  
Ministry  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry began in the fall of 2008. We decided on the name Heart Works because our “projects” were going to be WORKS of the HEART. Mary Faulkner, Margaret Hanselman, Dennice Hill, Nancy Newberry, Donna Sanderson, Mary Smith, and Kathy Strauss were at the first meeting. In January of 2009, we introduced our ministry to the congregation, through a children’s sermon telling what Heart Works was all about. The children each received a 3 inch “prayer square” to use at home, or to carry in their pocket.

Over the past 10 years, Heart Works has created and shared over 4,100 prayer shawls, baptism blankies, pillow case dresses, shorts, beanie babies wrapped in Magic Hug Squares, and lots of hats and scarves, all to share our love, support, and warmth to adults and children in Port Huron and St. Clair County, in Michigan and several other states, and as far away as Haiti, Guatemala, and Honduras. We have hosted two retreats, have had sewing days to create dresses and sunhats, and have enjoyed knitting days to knit or loom hats.

Prayer Shawls are given to those who need comfort and support, and the feeling of “God’s loving arms wrapping them in a warm embrace”. We keep track of the prayer shawls we have shared, so if you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please speak to one of our members, the office, or Pastor Bonnie. There are also green request slips in the rack across from the restrooms that you can fill in to obtain a prayer shawl. Prayer shawls are never for sale, although Heart

Works will accept a donation for yarn for additional prayer shawls.

How can you help? Come knit/crochet/loom with us. Heart Works meets on the first Tuesday of every month at St. Paul, from 10 until noon. Please feel free to join us. We also have ladies who can’t attend our meetings but enjoy knitting or crocheting for us at home. Donate your beanie baby collection that is currently in your attic, and we will create hug squares to wrap around them. Or simply PRAY for us and our ministry.

Any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with any of the members listed above.

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### **EVANGELISM REPORT**

Thanks be to God for his patience and his people. After what seemed like a slow start, and receiving many prayers from all of you, we are off and running.

Rich Morris has built our “Neighbor Box”, and the youth will be painting it. Then, after blessing it and installation, we have loads of community and church information to fill it with. Hallelujah!!!

We are also planning a “Pet Food and Supply Drive” for Harbor Impact. We will be collecting throughout the month of September through October 7, then we will bless the gifts with the animals at the October 7 Sunday service. Further drives will follow. Please keep in mind and in prayer, that Samaritas (Lutheran Social Services) has a special need for a once a month crew of people who are willing to clean and disinfect the visitation hall in their building. If any are able to help, please contact me at (810) 985-5913.

Yours in Christ,  
Laurie

Dear Friends:

"THANK YOU" is inadequate for your support for the 20 weeks (4 weeks in the University of Michigan Hospital) and 16 weeks of rehabilitation, Ann Arbor, which sustained me.

"What a difference a day a makes" - finding heavenly healing in your menu where there was only "Sturm Und Drang."

Yes, I'm alive, after diagnosed with a diffuse large two centimeter B-cell Lymphoma of extra nodal site in the brain-- but no bleed! Now I've got ineradicable four titanium screws in my skull.

Days of required sacramental blessings of clinical trial chemical therapies conferred by competent staff on the reservoir atop of my head also.

Daily drudgeries eventually turned into what I called--"something celestial, i.e., a healing raptness which descends unexpectedly when I awaken!" Your opaque inner life is exposed to those who lift you, hug you and shower you!

Deprivations of Sally and family (our "six" kids) where displaced daily when they endowed me with strength and hope knowing the deadly dimensions of uncertainty.

Thanks for listening and praying, as I'm eternally indebted to all of you. Health in body and spirit--in Christ.

Pax,  
Bill Moldwin



## 15 Bakers Needed

The all time favorite cookie dessert—a mouth watering chocolate chip cookie. Here is a chance to serve in the ministry by baking a batch of cookies in your own kitchen or getting together with friends to bake at church. Would you be willing to be a member of the **MAKER'S BAKERS** & help the Stewardship Committee create 60 dozen cookies? We need fifteen bakers to each bake four dozen chocolate chip cookies (no nuts) for our 2018 stewardship kick-off: **DESSERT FIRST!**

A sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. The cookies are needed the morning of October 13<sup>th</sup>. They can be dropped off on Friday morning between 9 and 12 or Saturday morning before 10am. We thank you in advance for volunteering to help with this project.

Your Stewardship Committee

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## God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."



### 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 St. Paul earned \$102.28 in rewards.

**2) Newsletter:** The newsletter deadline for the October Ray is Sunday, September 16, 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*

*The office will be closed September 14<sup>th</sup>*

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