

## From the Pastor's Desk

This has been the longest six months. While our building has been closed, there has been so much "church" happening in these six months. Food trucks have provided food for over 400 families, we have served our neighbors each month at Mid-City, our community garden has produced almost 6000 lbs of vegetables for our neighbors, we have reached out to one another checking in, we have worshiped on-line every Sunday and twice by Drive-In, gathered for Bible study and small groups on Zoom, enjoyed virtual social hour each Sunday, taught our children at home using VBS supplies from our partner church, prayed for one another and so much more.

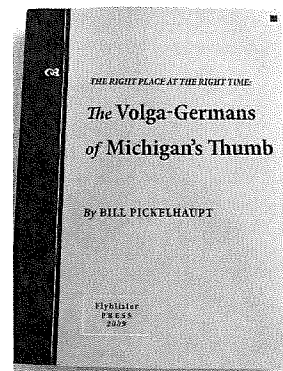
As Lutherans, we are called to love our neighbor. This is who we are as the people of God at St. Paul – we reach out to others, we care for the most vulnerable and we pray for one another. This has never been harder than it is right now. Honestly, I don't know when we will gather in person in our sanctuary. I miss leading worship with all of you in the same space. Our Congregational Council, Synod, the CDC, and our insurance company all recommend not gathering in our sanctuary yet. We will follow these recommendations. It is not always easy to do the right thing – to care for the most vulnerable.

As followers of the Living Word, we listen to the people with the knowledge. It is a precept of our faith that wisdom is a gift of God. Wise and trained scientists who have spent their lives studying viral infections and pandemics speak with one voice in saying COVID19 is not conquered, it remains a threat. It would be foolish to ignore their wisdom because we "feel" things are better and we "want" our "freedom" back. As Jesus people faithfully thank God for the wisdom, meant to protect us, that is now guiding our leaders as they aim us toward health.

As followers of Jesus, God's embodied wisdom; we limit our corporate worship for the sake of the least of these. Over and over again, Jesus holds up care for those in most need. Jesus now tells us to not put the vulnerable in need. We don't know who might bring the virus to worship. We don't know who might be exposed. And we don't take the chance – the foolish risk. Instead, we follow Jesus, freely practicing our faith in ways that don't need any church space. As Jesus did, we take time in scripture. As Jesus did, we set aside time to pray. As Jesus did, we tell the old, old story of God's active love in the world. We share our Living Lord with our loved ones, our children, our friends on the phone, in loving notes, on social media. We faithfully touch others with God's love at a time that we cannot physically touch others. We look to the future when we will be able to gather in our sanctuary safely.

Grace and peace,

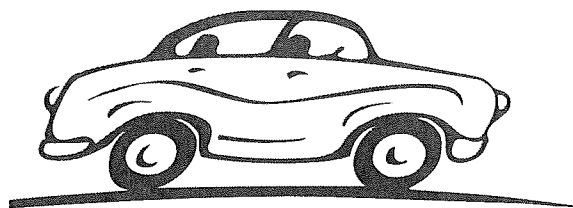
*Pastor Bonnie*



I recently returned to Michigan and have 16 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



## *Drive-In Worship*

### *September 6*

Our Drive-In style worship has been so successful that we will gather again in our parking lot on September 6. The same expectations will apply –

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. We will also be blessing backpacks, tote bags, briefcases etc. as students, teachers, staff and administrators return to school in a variety of ways this fall.

Loose change offering will be collected on the way out of the parking lot for Lutheran Campus Ministry as they prepare to minister to college students.

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.

## **Re-Opening the Building Committee**

Linda Barker, Cathy Stuewer, Marcus Middleton, Chris Matts and Laurie Morris are working with Pastor Bonnie to study the guidelines from our Synod, the CDC, our insurance company and much more for re-opening our building. They have done some things to prepare our building for small groups to gather inside, for community groups that use our building to return and for us to gather in the sanctuary safely for worship. Please hold them in prayer as they work to consider the safest way for our most vulnerable members to gather.



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, [stpaulslutheranph.com](http://stpaulslutheranph.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.

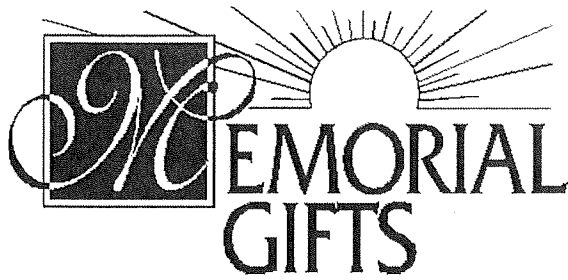
Thank you for supporting our ministry!

*Thank you* to all who prayerfully considered council positions this year! And a special thank you to those who accepted!

Please send in your acceptance to the office as soon as possible! This will enable us to finalize our ballot for council's approval.

God bless you all!

Nominating Committee



St. Paul is thankful for memorial gifts received.

In memory of Richard Falk by: Ivan & Mary Smith, Karen Spagnoli, Rick & Margaret Hanselman, Joyce Klause, Greg & Susan Koglin, Don & Kathy Strauss, Carol Warwick, Lorne & Linda Culp, Judy Halamka, Bill Gottschalk, Frederick & Donna Stuewer, Lois Coats & family, Nancy Tosch, Anne Marie Young, Cynthia & Daniel Falk, Jacques & Diane Merkau, Scott & Nancy Herber, Bruce & Mary Faulkner, Carl & Marilyn Beals, Mike & Diane Welsh, Jim & Donna Sanderson.

In memory of Addie Rehberg by: Rick & Margaret Hanselman, Greg & Susan Koglin, Maryann Meyers, Mary Shock, Cathy Moutoux, Kenneth & Anne Schmidt, Robert & Sharon Gibson, Richard & Linda Barker, Ronald & Joan Horbes, Jim & Donna Sanderson.

In memory of Jim Weston by: John & Julie Lusk, Mike & Diane Welsh, Carol Warwick, Sandra Oswell, Don & Kathy Strauss, Judy Halamka, Bill & Sally Moldwin, Pamela Naplin, Jacques & Diane Merkau, Bruce & Mary Faulkner, Marcus & Carolynn Middleton, Daniel & Joanne Traver, Norman Weston, Rick & Margaret Hanselman, Randolph & Christy Allen, Joseph & Nancy Priemer, Bill Gottschalk, Barbara Tibble, Dorothy Forth, Joan Vercnocke, Norman Weston II, Carl & Marilyn Beals, Robert Eifert, Scott & Nancy Herber, Greg & Susan Koglin, Maryann Meyers, Karen Spagnoli, Jim & Donna Sanderson, Judy Forstner.



FOOD TRUCK  
REPORT 8/20/2020

A huge thank you to the 33 great volunteers who helped with the Food Truck. Thank you for your patience since the Food Truck arrived 2 ½ hours late. The weather was hot and everyone was exhausted by the time we were finished.

We had 202 families come to get food for 706 individuals. There were 150 families served who were over 60. We distributed 14,260 pounds of food which included 586 pounds of cabbage from the garden. There was 1 heaping full pickup truck box of food left over. Some nonperishables went to the Food Pantry at St. Johns Church (at 7<sup>th</sup>. and Pine Streets) in Port Huron. They had recently taken over the Food Pantry from First Congregational Church which closed recently. The rest went to Harbor Impact. The cost of the Food Truck was \$800.00. It was paid for by a grant made in memory of the Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, which faithfully ministered to its members and to the community of Northeast Detroit for 73 years.



## From There to Here

In 2002 I was sitting in a seminary classroom in Southfield discussing the assigned reading. It was a book about two male pastors share one ministry, one a black man, the other a white man. "Interesting." Some obvious hurdles were over intercultural and interethnic issues, some were unexpected, but none were deal breakers. The professor divided us into small groups to discuss personal racial experiences.

Now Ashland Theological Seminary had a satellite campus in Southfield because the majority of the students at the old Toledo campus were ministers and pastors of traditionally black Detroit churches. My Southfield classes were roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  black and  $\frac{1}{4}$  white.

I heard about a container of urine flung at a black classmate from a passing car filled with whites and Saturday morning rounds of garage sales routinely interrupted by detention of black families by white police officers because the black occupants of the car "didn't look like they belonged" in Oakland county and dozens of other insults and injuries. All were recounted matter of factly and greeted with nods of recognition and affirmation by other black classmates. Had I not previously built relationships with those black classmates in my small group, I would not have believed what they told me.

My paradigm shift was immediate and permanent. I was stunned, shocked, astonished to realize that although blacks and whites lived in and occupied the same space, as a white woman, I lived in a wholly different world from that of any African American person in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

My "black" experience was limited to my father sending his family to the cottage in Lakeport during the 1967 riot/uprising. He barricaded himself in the master bath with his .22 rifle aimed at the top of the West Bloomfield street from which "trouble" could come. My God. Really. My God!

"How could this be," I asked myself. I had been a smart girl, did well in school, a champion of women's rights. (Remember Ms. Magazine?) I was aware; I knew things. At 14, my current events class read and discussed

*Black Like Me*. I was an accomplished woman with multiple degrees, a successful attorney, I was the mother of a Korean American child, fer crying out loud. How was it that I didn't know about these parallel worlds? Swimming in a sea of education and information, how was such staggering ignorance possible?

I'm a Christian mutt: Baptist, Presbyterian, Dutch Reform, Episcopalian and, by 1987, an ELCA Lutheran. Shortly, I discovered that the SEMI Synod hosted an antiracism team, BRRICK. (Building Racial Reconciliation in Christ's Kingdom) I bore down on that ministry like a retriever chasing a tennis ball. During the interview process with the team, John Negele, a white pastor, asked me, "What would you say if I told you that I, a member of the BRRICK team, am a racist?" My reply was a spontaneous cry, "Me, too!" implying confession as well as a deep need to understand myself and my sheltered world view. The mixed racial group chuckled and nodded to one another, "Yep, she's one of us!"

I labor under no illusions. This country was forged in the heat and steeped in the teachings of white superiority and its assumed privileges. Since before the first black person was stolen from Africa and forcibly shipped to the land now known as the USA in 1619, we have all (Whites, Blacks, Indigenous, Asians, Hispanics, etc.) been fed half-truths and outright lies including the Christian church's declaration of the "right" of Europeans to "discover" and claim the land and bodies of non-Christians (Doctrine of Discovery), the concept of "race" (a social construct to justify chattel slavery), and the assertion that God gave the USA to whites (Manifest Destiny).

Our first and perpetual task is to educate ourselves. How and why does race continue to roil and confound Americans? Why can't we "just get past it"? I invite your calls or emails any time.

Marilyn Knak  
586-864-6903  
marandron@sbcglobal.net



*Dear God, with a new school year upon us, we pray for our...*

**STUDENTS**, that You would ease their anxiety about going back to school amidst the pandemic. We pray for safety for those returning to in-person classes, and for the needed technology, self-discipline, and adult oversight for those learning online. Would you ensure that every child has enough to eat, a supportive network of friends and family, and perseverance to face every challenge with Your strength?

**PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS**, that You would grant them wisdom about which schooling option to choose. We pray for your provision physically, spiritually, emotionally, and financially. We pray for a support system that they can turn to when the challenges of life are overwhelming. We pray for churches and believers to surround local families with more prayer and support this year than ever before.

**TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF**, that You would grant them supernatural peace and discernment. We pray for wisdom for school district leaders, and for the safety of every staff person on every school campus. May the community rally around our schools to provide the sanitization, supplies, and emotional support needed by our teachers and school staff as they educate our children.

**CHURCH VOLUNTEERS**, that Your faithfulness and goodness would be evident through our actions as we love the students and school staff as You first loved us. Especially amidst this pandemic, grant us opportunities to develop meaningful relationships in safe ways, and may we strive to serve as Jesus did with grace and humility. We pray that students and teachers would see You through us. *In Jesus' name we pray, Amen*

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **August 10, 2020**

Rich Cochrell led our Chapter 6 discussion of "The Church of Us vs them".

Audit Committee Report Results was presented and approved by Council.

Next Outdoor Worship is September 6 with communion.

Employee Performance Reviews are scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Offering envelope numbers were reviewed. We will continue to send to current list.



Garden Production – the garden production as of August 24 is 4952 pounds.

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### **A Note From Your Treasurer**



Thank you once again for continuing to remember your St. Paul family in your monthly giving. We continue to meet our

financial obligations and for this we are all truly thankful. May God bless each of you.

Julie Lusk, Treasurer



**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 2020 to May 2021. Our NPO number is RK460. **Registration is online only.** Last quarter 34 households earned \$96.77 rewards for St. Paul.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter deadline for the October Ray is Sunday, September 20, 2020. Articles may be submitted via e-mail ([stpaulww@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulww@comcast.net)), on a flash drive or in writing.



## Remember Our Members In The Military

COL. THAD MIDDLETON  
2205 TANKER WAY  
WICHITA, KS 67210



Melba Bartley  
Connie Ganger  
Lavina Kodet  
MaryAnn Meyer



*If you would like to add someone to our church prayer list, please email Pastor Bonnie at [pastorbonniek@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbonniek@gmail.com). Request received by 9 a.m. on Fridays will be included in worship that Sunday. Those received after that time will be added to Pastor Bonnie's personal list and offered the following Sunday.*



Happy 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday to LaVina Kodet on Sept 5!

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## On-line worship opportunities

While we are not able to be face to face in worship in our sanctuary there are still opportunities to gather to hear God's word, to pray, to sing and to be encouraged. Each Sunday at 9:30am on our Facebook page worship is posted for us to gather in our homes at the same time to view worship.

The service is also posted on our website [stpaulslutheranph.com](http://stpaulslutheranph.com) under the "Worship services" tab. We also gather on Zoom each Sunday at 10:30 for a virtual social hour. Here is the link to join us on Zoom –

<https://zoom.us/j/8109829853>