

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,

I hope your summer is getting off to a good start. Special shoutout to the teachers and staff of our various educational institutions who are putting in so many hours during the day and evenings to help our young people as they come to the end of the school year.

During the end of summer, July and August, we will be doing a **six-week sermon series entitled "Faces of Our Faith: Bold and Untold Stories."** The focus of the series will be on people in the Bible that we do not get to talk about as much. Their stories may be shorter in the Bible, or maybe our focus has been elsewhere. Nevertheless, these stories are important. I need your help in choosing the people we will look at. Below I am going to list the 16 people to choose from. **I would like for you to circle or check off the six that you would like to most to have a sermon about. Please turn them into the office or my mailbox before July 1st.** I will take the six most-voted-on options for the series.

I am so excited to journey with you all this summer.

Peace,
Pastor Branden

Circle or check your six selections to have a sermon on. **Please turn in to the office or Pastor Branden's mailbox by July 1st.**

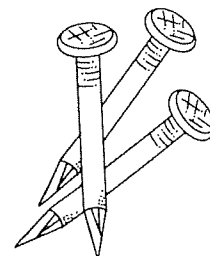
- Adam and Eve
- Puah & Shiprah
- The daughters of Zelophehad
- Queen Vashti
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- Jonah
- Deborah
- Mary Magdalane
- Anna
- Joseph of Arimathea
- The thief on the cross
- Judas Iscariot
- The Ethiopian Eunuch
- Eutychus
- Lydia
- Philemon

Don't Forget

Starting on **June 2,**
there will be **one**
service at 9:00 AM.

Nail Sale

Our Annual Nail Sale will be held on **Father's Day - Sunday, June 16.** All proceed will go to **support Habitat for Humanity.**



My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We were privileged to have members from the congregation to attend our Council Meeting on May 13. Individuals spoke and shared concerns about: roof leakage, electronic sign, carpet/chairs cleaning, and lawn maintenance. All of these were addressed by the Council as follows:



President's Report

- Roof Leakage:** The Council voted to retain Zimmer Roofing to remove and replace the rubber membrane and wet insulation, starting at the scupper box, located within the front cross and flower bed area, south about 25 ft. This work should begin soon.
- Electronic Sign:** The Council authorized the president to appoint a committee to continue research on sign specifications, possible sources, and cost. Jan Thomas has been appointed chair and is currently organizing this committee's work. We hope to entertain a proposal at the June Council Meeting.
- Carpet/Chair Cleaning:** Jacques Merkau is securing cost information and will procure this work as had been planned.
- Lawn Maintenance:** A contract had already been signed with D&B Lawn Service to cut the church lawn once every other week. People have different opinions about whether it should be more frequent than that. For now, there is only enough money in the budget for every other week. However, the Council will review this at the next meeting.

There were also concerns by some members about the amount of funds available for future projects requiring capital outlay. As we begin working on next year's budget, I and the Finance Committee will discuss some alternative options that could make more funds available while maintaining fiscal integrity.

I want to thank the people who came to our last Council Meeting. You are always welcomed. I would also like to thank our council members who continue to volunteer their time and efforts in so many ways to further St. Paul's mission.

Asking for God's Blessing on Us All,
Your Council President,
Jim Fortushniak

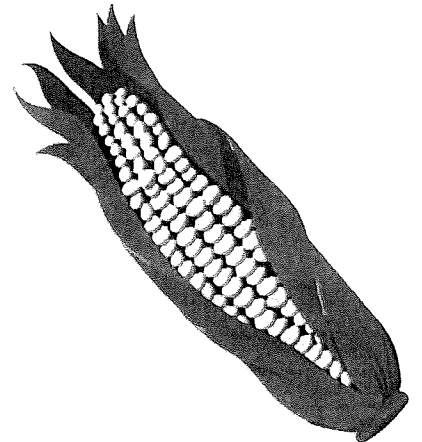


Please join us at Heart Works on the first **Tuesdays** of the month, **June 4 and July 2**, for a couple hours of fellowship as we knit, crochet, or loom items to share with those in need. We will be in the **Activity Room from 10:00 AM until noon**. I hope you can join us.

Corn Roast

St. Paul is reaching out to the community and hosting a **CORN ROAST on August 10th**. We need

your help organizing. Please contact Leanne Fortushniak at (810) 956-3714 or Leann Smith at (810) 488-5829 or leannsmith121@gmail.com if you can help us!



FOOD BANK



of Eastern Michigan

Food Truck Report

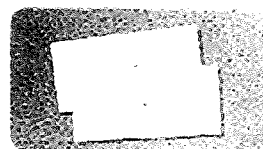
5/16/24

A huge thank you to the 28 great volunteers who helped with this food truck. **We had 166 families come to get food for 528 individuals.** We received 10,768 pounds of food and had about 6 boxes left over. The leftover food went to Harbor Impact for distribution to more needy families. We used a Thrivent action team grant of \$250.00 toward the cost of this food truck.

NEXT FOOD TRUCK On July 25, 2024

Workers need to be at the church by at least **10:00 AM**, with distribution starting about 11:00 AM. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex in July. **If you have grocery type bags, please bring them.**

Save the date for the future food truck:
Wednesday, September 18, 2024



CHURCH ENVELOPES

It has been the practice of St. Paul to mail offering envelopes to households wishing to use envelopes to donate to fund the ministry and expenses of the church.

Recently, Augsburg informed us of options that would decrease the cost.

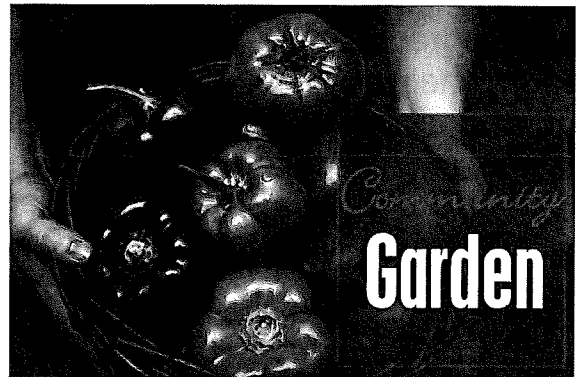
1. You can continue to receive a packet of envelopes for each Sunday and special worship opportunities mailed monthly--OR—the cost can be reduced by mailing envelopes in a two-month packet.
2. Also, per a request from those who give monthly, it has been noted that the same two-month mailing could included just one envelope per month, plus the special envelopes. This also would reduce the cost and eliminate discarding unused envelopes.

The council is considering these options and would like feedback from the congregation. If you wish to adjust the mailing to the one monthly envelope option, please indicate your request on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the office by the end of June.

Once the council has your input, a decision will be made as to how many receive the weekly offering envelopes and how many will be adjusted to a monthly envelope.



Help is needed to care for the Cross Garden. We are setting up a schedule for watering it. **Sign up for a week or two on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.** Please water the Cross Garden only if needed.



Community Garden

Good News! The garden is almost ready to be planted. **All garden information has been updated on St. Paul's website, www.stpaullutheranph.com.** You can now download the cover letter, garden application, and guidelines for 2024. Copies are also available by contact the church office at (810) 982-9853 or stpaulww@comcast.net. If you have any questions, contact Don Strauss at (810) 434-2380.

Report on Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly May 11, 2024

Nearly 200 delegates and observers attended this year's Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Ida.

St. Paul was represented by delegates Jim and Linda Ketchum, as well as voting clergy Pastor Branden Hunt, Rev. Bill and Sally Moldwin, and Rev. Ann Preimesberger.

Beyond a list of housekeeping chores involving approval of committee and executive reports and changes to the synod constitution, the assembly heard a report from Bishop Donald Kreiss on his three-month sabbatical last year and approved operating budgets for the synod for 2026 and the Fund for Missions.

Delegates also had the chance to attend one of five workshops prior to the afternoon session. Jim attended a workshop "Inspiring Generosity in Anxious Times" led by Rev. Paul Walters, pastor of Lutheran Church of the Master in Troy and a consultant with GSB Fundraising Consultants. Pastor Walters said, among other things, that before a church begins a fundraising campaign, leaders need to ask: What are the biggest challenges to reaching the goal, what fears will potential givers have and what is the opportunity that giving will bring. One of the biggest challenges is getting congregations excited about a project and help them buy into the idea that the project will help the church in the long run.

Linda attended a workshop on refugees and asylum seekers and what we, as Christians, can do to help. The workshop was led by the synod Immigration and Refugee Task Force. The synod currently is housing a refugee family in a church, and more calls are coming asking for help. Synod leaders say they need to develop a sustainable plan going forward to meet the needs of a growing number of refugees.

Pastor Branden and Don Strauss led a workshop on growing a community garden, how to start one, and how to keep it producing. The garden is something every St. Paul member should be proud of and appreciate.

The assembly concluded with a closing Eucharist and the installation of C. J. Clark as Director for Evangelical Mission.

In Christ,
Jim Ketchum
Linda Ketchum

Table Thanksgiving from the Synod

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed! Blessed be God, who is our bread; may all the world be clothed (or sheltered) and fed!

Rise Up! Build Bridges, Bear Burdens, Break Chains, Bring Hope!

www.semisynod.com
www.facebook.com/semisynod



Join us for Vacation Bible School

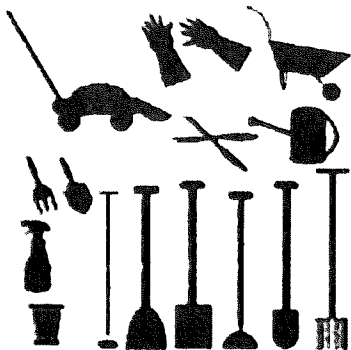
August 5-8th, 5:00-7:30 for ages 4-adult.

Come be part of the fun at our Vacation Bible School Lava Lava Island, where Jesus' love flows each day for ages 4-adult. Join us for the light dinner and stay for adult bible study while your children do crafts, snacks, games, and bible stories. Sign up today for this event! You can register your kids and yourself and/or sign up to volunteer. Bring friends, share the news. Sign-up sheets can be found in narthex, or **you may sign up online at stpaulslutheranph.com or vbspro.events/p/2c768c** Contact Leann Smith at (810) 488-5829 or leannsmith121@gmail.com.

VBS NEEDS YOU!

Please come and be part of the VBS team. **Next meeting is Monday, June 3rd, at 6:00 PM.** Contact Leann Smith at (810) 488-5829 or leannsmith121@gmail.com.

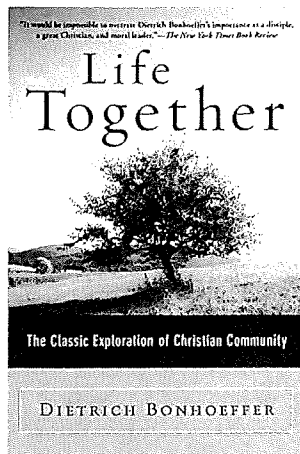
Property's Work Day



Watch for the date of the spring church cleanup of the yards and kitchen as well as the spreading of the wood chips to refresh the meditation path. This will be scheduled when the ground is hard enough to support the dump truck delivery of the wood chips being donated by Nathan Cochrell's company. The kitchen will also receive an annual cleaning at that time. You will need to bring your own tools.

Beyond the Bible

Beyond the Bible's next meeting will be **Sunday, June 2, after the 9:00 AM Service**. Chapter 3 of "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer will be discussed. **Happy Reading!**



REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONTINUALLY, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV



The June/July/August edition of "Our Daily Bread Devotion" is available for you to pick up. They are in the church office hallway. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a copy.

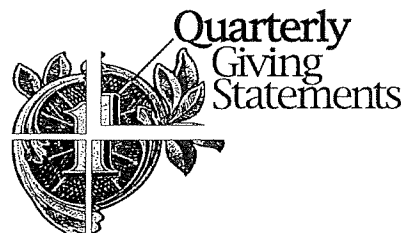
Planning a Fundraiser?

Present the idea to the Council for approval. Request the fundraiser form and a manila envelope in which to collect money during the event. Store the money envelope in the safe. At the end of the event, count the donations. Give the financial secretaries the envelope so it can be reported as income. Checks are issued every two weeks. Let the treasurer know the amount of the check, contact person's name and the address for mailing.



Church COUNCIL

- Jim Fortushniak, Council President
- James White, President-Elect
- Marcia Conard, Council Secretary
- Diane Merkau, Treasurer
- Susan Koglin, Financial Secretary
- Margaret Hanselman, Asst. Financial Secretary
- John Middleton, Financial Rep.
- Leanne Fortushniak, Evangelism Rep.
- Leann Smith, Parish Ed. Rep.
- Jacques Merkau, Properties Rep.
- Diane Welsh, Stewardship Rep.
- Ann Preimesberger, Worship Rep.



The **first quarter contribution statements** were emailed/mailed in April. If you do not receive yours or would like a hard copy, please email or call the office and let us know if you would like it mailed or placed in your box.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

From **February 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024**, St. Paul Lutheran Church received \$59.59 from 27 families' rewards on purchases at Kroger. To use the rewards program, you can register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. All **current participants** in the Kroger Community Rewards Program **do not** need to re-enroll this year to earn funds for St. Paul. The rewards program runs from May 2024 to May 2025. Our NPO number is RK460. **Registration is online only.**

Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for **the August Ray is Tuesday, July 23, 2024**. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (stpaulww@comcast.net), on a flash drive, or in writing.



While all 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. Please join us at 9 AM on our Facebook page for our livestream service.



Prayer List



Prayer requests are welcomed and can be made on our Facebook page, by emailing the church office at stpaulww@comcast.net, or with our connection cards. To keep the list current, please make your request each week you wish to have your loved one's name included in the prayers.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30-1:30
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30- 11:30

OFFICE
HOURS



Sunday Service

Begins at 9 AM

June 2-September 8, 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3790 WEST WATER ST
PORT HURON, MI 48060
(810) 982-9853

stpaulww@comcast.net

Sunday Worship 9 AM (Jun. 2-Sept. 8, 2024)

Livestream at 9 AM on Facebook,
our YouTube channel

or watch from the link on our website

www.stpaul LutheranPH.com

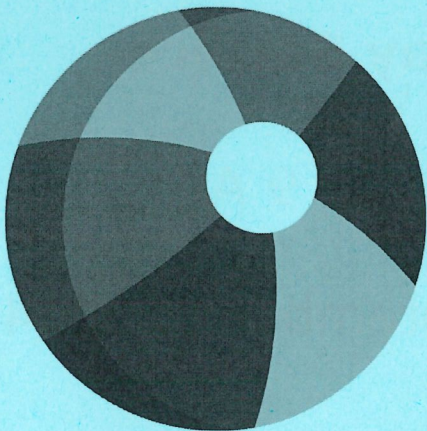
Pastor Branden Hunt

stpaulpastorelca@gmail.com

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The Ray

Gather, Grace, Grow, Go



JUNE/JULY 2024