



The Voice

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



September 2021

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

These two sentences greet visitors to www.elca.org, the website of our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA.) These two sentences make a bold statement. They proclaim that the church does not belong to you or me or anyone else. The church belongs to Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus, everything we do is best done in the spirit of the love, justice, and mercy that pervaded Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Jesus continues to lead us, through times of excitement and days of challenge. We are sometimes called into surprising and even startling places under the guidance and care of Jesus, who goes before us and alongside of us. As the fall begins, I invite you to think, pray, and dream about your life of faith as St. Paul's, and how we can more fully follow and live out Jesus' vision for this community, our neighborhood, and the world.

Hopefully, reading that there is a place for you in Christ's church resonates with you. After all, this is the congregation that you take part in, and where you worship, are fed and nourished, and sent out from. My belief is that most of you who read this newsletter feel that there is a place for you at St. Paul's. My challenge for us is how to increase and diversify those who can say this about this congregation. How might we become a more welcoming congregation?

One way to broaden our welcome is to embody and express the rest of what is displayed on the bottom of the ELCA's website. Our church also proclaims, "We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world."

As St. Paul's embarks on its next phase of congregational life, I ask you to live out these gracious statements of our church. How can you confidently live in response to God's grace in your own individual life, and in your life as a community of faith? At its best, faith in our God in Christ liberates us to embrace those around us with curiosity and compassion. And in this embrace of those outside the church, we remind them, and ourselves, that God's grace and love is for all people.

Our denomination, the ELCA, strives to be an inviting, thriving, connected church. We welcome others because Christ first welcomes us. We hope and work so that all people and creation may thrive, because Jesus came that all might have life and have it abundantly. We more fully embody God's dreams and visions in our life together when we are connected with the beautiful, complicated breadth and diversity of God's people on earth.

Dear people of St. Paul's, this is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Claimed and welcomed, let us join together to do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Pastor Adam

A Note from the Call Committee

We have good news! The Bishop has nominated a candidate for our consideration. By the time you are reading this, our Committee will already have met to review the detailed information about the candidate received from the Bishop. We then will likely be arranging to attend a worship service at which the candidate will preside and to conduct an in-depth interview of the candidate.

After we have seen the candidate conduct worship and finished the interview process, we will meet again to determine whether to recommend the candidate to the Church Council. As you may recall, if our Committee does not recommend the candidate, the process will begin anew. If we do recommend the candidate, however, there will be a further check of the candidate's background, following which the candidate will be interviewed by the Council. The Council will then determine whether to recommend the candidate to the Congregation, or whether to ask the Synod for another name.

We continue to ask that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue this journey. As always, any member of our Committee, consisting of Joe Brown, Emily Dufrene, Dave Nuzzo, Cheryl Parr, Dawn Sagerman, Sara Smith, or I will be glad to answer any questions you may have about this.

Peace,

Karl W. Kristoff
Call Committee Chair

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Members of St. Paul's

We are moving ahead! Karl Kristoff informed us this morning that our call committee has been given the name of a candidate for Pastor. The Call Committee will now begin its work of determining if we are a good fit for one another.

September is approaching, bringing with it a new school year, a new Church activity year, the return of those things which we have set aside for the summer. As fall approaches so does the need for people to assist with these activities.

Here is a list of the NEEDS we have as a congregation

Altar Guild- Altar Guild sets up communion and takes it down after the service. They are also responsible for the changing of the paraments, making sure that the Altar area is set up for Sunday Services. The normal commitment is one month per year. You may sign up as an individual, or a team (two people). Contact Julia Levy or me.

Coffee Hour- Thanks to Lee Clukey, our coffee hours have continued through the Summer. However, we will need people to assist with the setting up and cleaning up since we will now have a coffee hour before our 10 am service as well. Talk to Lee if you would like to help.

Sunday School – This is a big one, we need all positions; teachers, aides and so on. We are once again using a prepared Sunday School curriculum, and Sunday School itself will be changed from how we knew it in the past. If you would like to participate in this program, contact Pastor Adam.

Tellers – Tellers are the people that count our weekly offerings and deposit them in the Bank. We need individuals who are unrelated who could be teamed up to count. Some teams count after church, others Monday mornings it is up to that team. Currently, we have two teams, so we count every other week, but more teams means less frequency. Training provided. Contact George Roeser (georgeroeser@hotmail.com)

Greeter administrator -We need a greeter to head up and schedule the greeters! This task is not hard and can be done with the frequency the person doing it chooses. The groups I schedule I do 6 months at a time. If you would like to take this on let me know.

Choirs-We have 2 very active choirs, the Chancel Choir, and the Bell Choir. Commitment is a rehearsal once a week and performance as scheduled. If you love music and fellowship, you'll love these groups. See Patrick Gard.

If you would like to help but are not sure where let me know I'm sure we can find a place for you!

Here's to a great new year!

George A. Roeser

Please continue to use a mask while inside St. Paul's.

From Upstate New York Synod

September 1, 2021

Dear Siblings in Christ,

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" (Ps. 118:24)

These words from an ancient psalmist are how I've greeted the communities I've served every Lord's Day. "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice!" It is a statement of faith and a proclamation, a witness to God's love active in the world.

Some days these words sound foreign; as when I have used them to greet an assembly gathered to commend a beloved one into God's eternal care; or on the day after 9/11, or in the midst of a pandemic.

But these words are no less true, even when the "earth should change, [and] the mountains shake in the heart of the sea" (Ps. 46:2).

God is with us. God has been with us all along. The Divine continues to walk with us, alongside us, feeding us (that's what all of these "bread" Sundays have been about after all) and leading us forward, together.

I am privileged, humbled, excited, and just a bit fearful, as we begin this call together as church and servant-bishop. I look forward to learning about God's love made present in the world from you. I look forward to growing with you, activated by the one who has created us in an image of loving-kindness, and set free to do the liberating work of the gospel.

I know that the pandemic has been exhausting in many and various ways. This can't be overstated. I believe as God's people, saved and transformed by the sacrificial love of Christ and his death on the cross, we are raised up to new life, to be the church for such a time as this. I also believe, that as we come through the pandemic together, we do so with heightened needs for community and connections, for relationship and real purpose in being together. Our intentions have been focused and we are collaborating in new ways for the sake of our siblings. This is an incredible time to be the church!

I look forward to connecting with you this Fall as we begin our ministry together and renew our relationships throughout our synod, which is Christ' church, together. Join me at your local conference Fall Assembly where we'll have some time to meet and listen to one another. Join me as well in praying for all God's people, for our communities throughout the Upstate New York Synod, our ELCA, the Lutheran World Federation, and for all people in need everywhere.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. Thanks be to God for the ways that love activates us in the world to do justice and share in the joy of Christ!

"This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Lee Miller II

Siblings in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from the One who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our crucified, risen and ascended Lord.

There is a story that surfaces from time to time around the Macholz family. It indicates that when I was but a child and people asked me what I was going to be when I grew up I had a very specific response. My answer was always the same: "I'm going to be a preacher, a puncher or a painter." I do have a slight recollection of saying that once or twice but not to the extent that others might recall.

Evidently the puncher and painter part didn't work out, so I defaulted to the preacher aspect of the aspirations. I do know this, that since a very young age I always wanted to be a pastor. The phrase regarding my choices may have been a way to deflect the pressure I may have felt to follow in my dad's footsteps but clearly it didn't deflect it enough.

For the past forty-one years that hope has been lived out for me, for Lin and for our family. For the past seven years it has been my privilege to serve as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod, a call I never truly pursued but was somehow convinced by the Spirit to be open to along the way. Ministry and this call have offered an amazing journey for me to experience the direction of that same Spirit and the grace of our God in Christ's death and resurrection which has sustained me.

As my days in this office come to a close, I want to simply say "Thank You!" Thank you for your support, patience, encouragement, correctives along the way, prayers offered and friendships extended. You and those and more have been incredibly amazing and life-giving for us.

I will miss this call and all of whom have been a part of it whether up close or from a distance. You have walked with our family through joys and sorrows and some of the darkest moments of our lives, sustaining and supporting us with words of encouragement and countless prayers offered. There are not words, that I am aware of, that can fully express my feelings and deep gratitude for your participation in this grand time of living as a community of beloved disciples of Christ so I will say simply THANK YOU for your partnership on the way. We are Church Together, none of us carry out this ministry alone but united, we can find our way forward.

As the days come to a close and I offer great thanksgivings for your accompaniment I ask your prayers for Bishop Lee M. Miller, II who will take up this mantle and run with it. Lee and I have spent some time over the past five or six weeks working together on transitional issues, answering questions, sharing concerns and working to hopefully give him solid footing on which to begin.

Please hold him, Heather and Griffin in your prayers in the coming years. Include him in the prayers of the people as you worship each week on Sunday mornings and at other times, add him to your daily prayer, extend a word of

encouragement along the way. The Office of the Bishop is a challenging call at best and those who serve are appreciative of all the support that can be mustered. Offer it to him as he begins.

As I have said to Bishop Miller, I will be stepping away from ministry for about six months, creating a space for him to move in quickly and without the interruption of the former bishop. It is necessary in any transition, as you know, that the former pastor must decrease so that the incoming pastor can find her footing, develop his own style and create their own direction. I will be stepping away from most social media as well to help create that space.

With that in mind, until our paths cross somewhere down the road receive these words of benediction, words that have become dear to my heart over the years, words that call us to ministry and bless us on the way.

Go out into the world in peace.

Have courage.

Hold to what is good.

Return no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint-hearted,

Support the weak,

Help the suffering and

Honor all people and love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

In Christ's Peace,

The Rev. John S. Macholz

Bishop, Upstate New York Synod

Upcoming events!!

St. Paul's September 2021 Food Drive

During September 2021 St. Paul's will be conducting a food drive to assist programs administered by FeedMore of WNY (www.feedmorewny.org). We are asking willing congregants to bring one or more of the food stuffs listed below to St. Paul's during September. After the last Sunday in September, representatives from FeedMore will collect the donations and provide them to needy WNY residents.

What is Needed? Representatives from FeedMore have listed the following food stuffs as most important:

- Peanut or other nut butter → Beans, canned or dried
- Canned tuna or chicken → Boxed Mac and Cheese
- Canned soups, stews or chili → Pasta and rice
- Canned fruit → Spaghetti sauce
- Canned vegetables → Baby food and diapers
- Feminine hygiene products

Who is Feed More WNY?

FeedMore WNY is the nonprofit formed by the merger of The Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY. They partner with 371 hunger-relief agencies and programs in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie and Niagara counties. This includes the food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other agencies in our member network. It also includes partner home-delivered meal sites in Erie and Niagara Counties and congregate dining sites in Erie County.

In 2020, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food through all of its feeding programs to provide nearly 16 million meals to our neighbors in need. This is an increase of nearly 4 million meals compared to 2019.

Through their food bank distribution network, they assisted a total of 173,100 individuals in 2020, including 70,971 babies and children, 78,161 adults and 23,968 seniors. A total of 54,152 households were served through their food bank distribution network. In 2020, they delivered 1.3 million meals to 5,535 homebound neighbors in Erie and Niagara counties through a home-delivered meals program. They provided another 65,444 meals to 2,000 mobile seniors through our congregational dining program.

The pandemic has significantly increased the demand for their services. We are being called to aid our community!

Two containers will be placed in the Social Hall, please deposit your contributions there. Let's fill these containers to the top!

Response to Hurricane Ida

“Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress” (Psalm 71:3).

Dear friends,

The headlines are filled with the devastation from Hurricane Ida, which made landfall near New Orleans on Aug. 29 — exactly 16 years after Hurricane Katrina. As a strong Category 4 storm, Hurricane Ida's 150 mph winds, torrential rain and strong storm surge caused widespread flooding and wind damage in southeastern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi. Homes are flooded and residents are awaiting rescue, which is hampered by the high waters and debris-clogged roads. Strong winds knocked out power lines and electrical substations, leaving more than 1 million people without power, including the entirety of New Orleans. In some areas, electricity is not expected to be restored for weeks. Ida weakened into a tropical storm as it moved inland and will likely cause heavy flooding in Mississippi, Alabama, and the Tennessee and Upper Ohio valleys.

The impact of Ida is yet to be fully assessed, but with a hurricane of this scale, rebuilding will be costly and take years. With extensive experience in accompanying communities throughout the relief and long-term recovery phases, Lutheran Disaster Response is working with local ELCA synods and Lutheran social service organizations to coordinate a response to Hurricane Ida. Immediate needs will include food, basic necessities and temporary housing. Long after the headlines change, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to accompany communities on the journey of rebuilding their homes and lives.

those affected by hurricanes until the response is complete.

We pray that God's presence will be felt in the midst of suffering and bring comfort to those who are hurting. Together, we can show our neighbors that they are not alone.

PLEASE GIVE NOW

Checks or money orders can be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "Hurricane Ida" on your check memo line, or

Give by phone at 800-638-3522

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

LADIES AID will start up again on September 14, 2021 - from 9:30am to 11:00. All are welcome and you do not have to know how to sew in order to join these fun ladies. Bring a bag lunch and come catch up on what's going on. Nancy Noble

YOUTH NEWS --

ELCA National Youth Gathering-2022

The national gathering of high school Lutheran youth will be in Minneapolis July 24-28, 2022. Gathering under the theme of Boundless: God beyond measure, all current 7th through 11th grade youth are eligible to attend. If you or a youth you know are potentially interested or have questions, please reach out to Pastor Adam. Some planning will begin this summer. This event brings together 30,000 high school aged youth for worship, service, learning, and exploring who they are while deepening their relationships with God and the church. It is an amazing experience. Go to www.elca.org/gathering for more information.

St. Paul's is still collecting DASH'S Register Tapes: St. Paul's gets \$2.50 for every \$100 in tapes! **Please save your tapes**, and put them in the box in the narthex or the envelope on the social hall bulletin board.

FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT PEOPLE - Friends of the Night People and St Paul's are reaching out to volunteers for the 4th Monday from 4:30pm to 7:30pm of each month. This is to distribute TO GO MEALS ONLY from the Friends facility. 3 volunteers are needed. Please text Lee Clukey at 716-631-9855 if interested in volunteering. Without saying, the need is great.

THE LOCKPORT FOOD PANTRY needs cake mixes, canned meats, canned fruit (except peaches), toothbrushes & toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and hand & body lotion. Diane Busdiecker will deliver your donations. Thank you for supporting this ongoing project.

Testing Our Old Testament Knowledge

Test your Old Testament knowledge by placing a line from the person in Column 1 below to the name of the action in Column 2 below.

<u>Column 1</u>	<u>Column 2</u>
1 Ruth	A. Kills an Egyptian and flees Egypt
2 Joseph	B. Convinces Barak to fight Sisera's army
3. Esther	C. Cheats brother out of his birthright
4. Samuel	D. Marries Boaz
5. Moses	E. Forgives his brothers
6. Jael	F. Saves Jews in Persia
7. Deborah	G. Chops off Sisera's head
8 Jacob	H. Anoints first 2 Kings of Israel

If you have enjoyed doing this little exercise, perhaps you would like to help us form a Bible class. I, Mary Chotoff, have led many Bible groups, and would love to lead another. I like to have us imagine what it would have been like to live in Biblical times. What did they wear? Where did they live? What did they eat and drink?

Share with me when you would like to have a class; what day, what hour, etc. Email me at marychotoff@gmail.com, or text or call me at 716-725-5918. I hope you like to celebrate when good things happen in the stories. Bring your noise makers. Let me know what you think with a not in my mail slot in the church office. Let's enjoy the stories together.

Mary Chotoff

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms Clara Marie Reagan July 11, 2021
Taylor Josephine Granica July 27, 2021

Deaths/ Memorials Barbara Weber June 5, 2021
Eileen Folkerth August 7, 2021
Wayne Hill(Mem.) August 2, 2021

Weddings Sandra Ann Smith and James Raymond Moesch August 21, 2021

PRAYER LIST – SEPTEMBER VOICE



Dick Atkins
Arlene Lauer
Ron Edwards
Marge Kolb
James Dickie

Jim Murray
Rosemary Rizzo
Tony Rizzo
Ken Welton

Also, friends and family -

Paul Busdiecker...son/brother of Diane and Kathi Busdiecker
Wendell Banyah...Brother of Nancy Stoehr
Ruthanna Hall and Emma Daines...Daughter and Grand-daughter of Carol & Dave Hall
Erica Desaulniers...Sister of Andrea Neidrauer
Vicki Doerfler...Mother of John Doerfler
Dorothy Lauer...Aunt of Cathy Lambert
Thomas Lauer...Cousin of Cathy Lambert
Ray Broeker.....friend of the Berg family
Cortney Wilkins.....friend of the Berg family

Please send prayer requests/changes to stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com and/or to stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com

MEMORIAL DONATIONS - *All donations go into the Memorial Fund unless otherwise indicated.*

ALTAR GUILD:

September **Patty Walker**

October **Chris Terranova & Cathy Lambert**

If you have any questions, please contact Julia Levy at 479-3107.

Food Pantry Open in Clarence for Anyone in Need.



The Evangel Food Pantry has returned to serving low income Town of Amherst residents. Anyone in need should contact the Morlock Foundation at [\(716\) 842-1300](tel:7168421300). You need proof of residency and proof of income. Cutoff for income level varies depending on the number in the household.