



The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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February 2020

Perhaps you saw the story of Randy ND Melodie Passmore in the paper or on TV recently. They were being threatened with eviction by the Homeowners Association of the community in which they live in Prescott, Arizona, for taking in their 15 year old grandson, Collin, to live with them. Collin's mother died after a long illness, and two weeks after her death his father committed suicide. Collin had nowhere to go. The rules of the homeowners' association bars residents under 19 years of age. At 15, Collin is too young. They've given the Passmore's until

June 30, 2020 to move out or face eviction. "I just wish that they would show a little compassion," Mrs. Passmore said.

Meanwhile, across the country in Richmond, Virginia the Catholic Bishop of Richmond came under fire by conservative Catholics for allowing the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia to hold a ceremony of ordination and installation of their new bishop in a Catholic Church in Richmond. The request was made back in 2018, and was completely legitimate according to the ecumenical guidelines of the Catholic Church. Yet conservative groups of Catholics, who want the Catholic Church to go back to the way it was "in the old days" want no "Protestants" in a Catholic building. The Bishop pointed out to them that in cases such as this, the Catholic Church viewed such sharing as "an act of compassion." But so much fuss was raised, that the Episcopal Diocese withdrew its request, and the service will be held in another location.



We are living in times when compassion fails. Whether it fails because people hide behind a law or a rule, or whether it fails because angry people mock and caricature people who have a different belief, different skin color, different status; it still fails. We follow a Savior who epitomized compassion, who told us to "be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful." When compassion fails, Christianity fails.

Practice and advocate for compassion in your daily lives. It is the Christ-like thing to do.

Pastors Wendy and Tim

February 2020



Come to Church on Sunday, **February 2nd** and celebrate the **Presentation of Our Lord** in the Temple. Forty days after Christmas, the Church remembers the day, as Luke tells the story, that Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem where they dedicated Jesus to God, and met Simeon and Anna who prophesied about Jesus' future as the light to the nations and the glory of Israel.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is celebrated this year on **February 26th**. As in previous years, there will be a simple service of distribution of ashes lasting about 10 minutes, at **12:30pm**. In the evening, the full service of Holy Communion with distribution of ashes will take place at **7:00pm**, Come out to get Lent off to a good start!



ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Aid – Ladies Aid resumed in January, meeting on Tuesday mornings in the Social Hall.

BOOK CLUB will meet Sunday, March 15 at 3:00pm in the Friendship Room to discuss The Story of Beautiful Girl by Rachel Simon. Sandi Emser will be our hostess and everyone is welcome to join us! Questions? Please call Ellen at 636-9786.

1-5-0 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND DRIVE

We've set up a GoFundMe page to accept donations to our 1-5-0 Anniversary Capital Improvement Fund Drive for major repairs to our building. See our direct link: <http://www.stpaulswilliamsville.org> and our Facebook page.

The website link is <https://www.gofundme.com/st-paul039s-williamsville-150-capital-improv>

1-5-0 envelopes are in the pews & narthex for those who wish to give with cash or check.

DASH'S REGISTER TAPES: Since 1/1/19 St. Paul's has received \$1800 for register tapes from Dash's. We get \$2.50 for every 100 in tapes, so **please save your tapes** and ask your friends and neighbors to save them too. Turn them in at church – found money!

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.

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS

Beverly Heinricher died on January 6, 2020. Beverly's funeral was held at St. Paul's on January 11.

Joseph Umhauer died on January 9, 2020. Joe's funeral was held at St. Paul's on January 16.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS FEBRUARY 2020 VOICE

All donations go into the Memorial Fund unless otherwise indicated.

In memory of Marjorie Metz:

John & Mary Clark Current Fund

In memory of Dick Edwards:

Doris A. Wright

In memory of Eva Paulson:

Doris A. Wright

BAPTISM

Rory Thomas Rajczak, son of Erin & Thomas Rajczak, was baptized at St. Paul's on December 29,

FEBRUARY PRAYER LIST



Robin (Valentine) Anowski
Dick Atkins
Ursula Grau
Wayne Hill
Erin Jankowski
Jim Kaepfel
Gerri Kolb
Holly Kolb

Marge Kolb
Carl Lauer
Zoe Malchow
Jim Murray
Marty Nowak
Gary Rasmusson
Rosemary Rizzo
Tony Rizzo

Mission Message

WHERE DOES CHOCOLATE COME FROM?

Do you think of chocolate when you think of Valentine's Day? When you're buying (or eating!) chocolate do you ever wonder where it comes from or how it's made?

More than 2000 farmers in the Philippines are being trained in cacao growing, in part with funding from ELCA World Hunger. Many of them used to grow only corn, leaving them susceptible to seasons of unfavorable climate. But cacao returns a much higher profit at market, and also can be grown on land not suitable for corn, can be harvested year round, and is less vulnerable to severe weather. Besides learning how to grow cacao, the farmers and their families are taught business practices, budgeting, and household management. Where income used to be unpredictable, now families enjoy a more reliable income, which in turn stabilizes many more aspects of their lives.

So, when you're eating your Valentine's chocolate, thank ELCA World Hunger. AND thank you for your mission support!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

Please remember to save your DASH register

tapes. Dash's super market gives the congregation \$2.50 for each \$100 of purchases. These "rebates" are used for Youth group and incidental expenses such as the women's retreat. St Paul's began participating in the program in 2005. We have received over \$12,000 in rebates.

This is an important program for the youth and the women's retreat. Please save your register tapes. They can be deposited in the cigar box on the table outside of the narthex or in the large manila envelope on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.



FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE planning is under way. Volunteers serve the evening meal 2 or 3 times a year on the 4th Monday of the month. We leave church at 4:15 and serve from 5-7pm. Please call Arlene Bossert at 697-4848 if you've never volunteered before but wish to in 2020, if you've volunteered before but wish to be removed from the schedule, or if you have questions.

The deadline for our March edition of the voice is Monday, February 17, 2020

Please send your articles and pictures to stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com

Or to the church office stpaulwilliamsville@roadrunner.com