



The Voice

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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February 2021

What's next: Lent, Worship, Calling a Pastor

We are church first. Everything else flows from this truth.

These two sentences quote and paraphrase our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton from a few years ago. They are an important reminder as this particular congregation, St. Paul's, lives into its future, begins Lent, and prepares to call a new pastor.

During Lent, I invite you to join me in worshipful education on Wednesday nights (via Zoom) at 7:30 PM beginning February 24. We will use our presiding bishop's framework to explore together more details about being church, Lutheran, communal, and serving those around us. I think you will enjoy this learning opportunity. Look for more details in the weekly emails that you receive from me.

Remote and in-person worship updates

Beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 17), both in-person and remote worship options will be available once again. The remote options will continue in their present form via YouTube with a worship bulletin available by email and the website. In-person worship will return on Ash Wednesday, and on Sundays at 9 AM beginning February 21. Similar to last fall, in-person worship will require social distancing, wearing masks, less-time together, and a fully spoken (no group singing) liturgy. Those comfortable doing so will be able to worship in-person together again this month.

Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Zoom community check-ins will continue on Sundays at 10 AM, and on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. In Lent, the Wednesday Zoom conversations will be more formally led and last about an hour. All Zoom community check-ins are times for the people of St. Paul's to be knit together as we continue to live with the physical distancing realities of the pandemic.

Ash Wednesday: February 17

Ash Wednesday reminds us that God is God, and we are not. This day marks the beginning of Lent, and our journey towards Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter new life.

On Ash Wednesday, I will be in the sanctuary at St. Paul's for distribution of ashes and Holy Communion from 11 AM — 1 PM. There will be a simple printed liturgy for those who come to guide this beginning of your Lenten journey.

Also, on Ash Wednesday evening at 7 PM, an in-person worship service with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will mark the beginning of Lent. Please come to worship as you feel safe, healthy, and desiring God's grace and forgiveness.

For those remaining at home, an Ash Wednesday Worship will be posted to St. Paul's YouTube page, and a bulletin will be distributed. If you would like ashes for your home-based worship experience, please let me know, and we will get those to you.

Thank you for participating: Call process updates

Led by the Transition Team, many of you joined in robust, honest, and challenging conversations about St. Paul's, its heritage, present, and future. Thank you for doing this work. As I facilitated the conversation, it gave me new hope for you as a congregation, for God's work through you in Williamsville, and what the future has in store for this community of faith.

Right now, a first draft of St. Paul's Ministry Site Profile, the document necessary to proceed with calling your next pastor, is being completed. This draft will be reviewed by the Transition team, and the church council. Then it will be shared with you for your input. The current timeline is that the profile will be approved by St. Paul's council and given to the synod office in March or at the beginning of April.

Concluding thoughts

St. Paul's is on its way: preparing to resume (partial) in-person worship, preparing to begin again the Lenten journey from ashes to Holy Week and Easter, & preparing for a renewed future through the calling of your next pastor. None of these things are easy. All of them take commitment, patience, prayer, and faith. Trusting in God's guidance, this congregation goes forward together in community. I invite you to continue to be God's community of love and new life in this place.

Be open to God's surprises as we journey into the future. May you have a blessed Lenten journey. The peace of Christ be with you!

Pastor Adam

Building Availability

I ask that you use care when planning to come to St. Paul's building. Christine is here Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM until 12 Noon. I am generally here Monday-Thursday from a bit after 9 AM until sometime in the afternoon. Please let us know that you are coming so we can look for you. When you come to the building, we ask you to log in on a sign in sheet located outside of the office. And, you will need to wear a mask.

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DROUGHT IN CAMBODIA

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response helped La Phat stay in her home. She is a community leader in a village in Cambodia which is experiencing drought. The rice paddies have dried up, and there is not enough rain to support the corn, green bean, and sesame seed crops. Many left the village for cities to find work to support their families, but she had a better idea.

Working with longtime ELCA partner Life With Dignity, La Phat and members of the community designed training programs in risk mitigation, advocacy, alternative livelihood opportunities, and more. They dug ponds and obtained 20 plastic tanks to capture the little rain they do get. Five new wells are being constructed, and two old ones repaired. "We now have hope in this new venture."

Lutheran Disaster Response works all over the world to assist people after hurricanes and earthquakes, and during chronic problems such as drought and health crises. 100% of donations go to the response effort, because overhead is paid for by the ELCA. **Thank you!**

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

St. Paul's Members,

Message from the Council President

Off we go into 2021! We have closed the books on 2020 and are moving into 2021, hopefully a year to reconnect and rebuild what we lost in 2020.

Our Annual meeting was held virtually on January 31, 2021. We passed the two resolutions that will allow us to conduct meetings virtually. These will be reviewed by a committee and then added to our constitution and By-Laws.

We also elected our officers for the coming year,

President George A. Roeser

Vice President Rob Kuehfus

Secretary/Treasurer Brian Waldrop

Financial Secretary Jessica Tamburlin

Other Committees

Building & Grounds Wayne Pachioli

I/T Nels (Skip) Larson

Social Ministry Joe Somma

Stewardship Rob Kuehfus

Worship & Music George Roeser

At-Large Mary Chotoff

At-Large John Doerfler

Financially, I am pleased to announce that we closed the books in the black. Despite the challenges of the past year. Many thanks to Wayne Pachioli and Brian Waldrop who assisted us in obtaining the PPP monies last year, and they are looking to get us some funding on the second round.

Monies left in the North Park Fund. These monies in the recent past we have transferred to our operating budget to zero out the deficit from the previous year. Having no deficit, council voted to hold these funds for any extra expenses we as a congregation may incur in calling a new pastor.

These were the highlights from our Annual Meeting. Many of you will note that there were some important areas missing in our discussions. Sunday School and youth are the two most important to me. We are still looking for people who would be willing to work on Sunday School, this is a very opportune time to look at this program since Sunday School is not currently meeting.

Our youth, although not meeting have some activities that they can do virtually with the Lutheran Youth of Western New York (Organic Youth). Their Website is www.lutheranyouthwny.org there are activities and information for our young people available there. This Website will also be a vehicle to let our young people what is going on around the area and when.

Here is to a better 2021!

God Bless

George A. Roeser

PARISH REGISTER

PRAYER LIST – FEBRUARY VOICE



Dick Atkins
Arlene Lauer
Kathy Habermehl
Marge Kolb

Jim Murray
Rosemary Rizzo
Tony Rizzo
Ken Welton

Also, friends and family -

Wendell Banyah...Brother of Nancy Stoehr
Ruthanna Daines...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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

REMEMBERING KAY VICTORSON

Many in the congregation know that Kay Victorson – the wife of Pastor Vern Victorson – passed away in their Tucson, Arizona home on January 4, 2021. Pastor Victorson served St. Paul's for 13 years from 1987 through 2000. After serving as our pastor, Vern and Kay left for Albany, NY and Vern served at First Albany Lutheran Church until they retired in 2011 and then moved to Tucson in 2016. A wonderful article on Kay was included in the Sunday, January 17th Buffalo News. We remember Kay as an integral part of our mission during her time with us and all who knew her felt truly blessed to have shared our journey with her. She will be missed.

Vern neglected to add in her obituary that anyone wishing to make a donation in her memory may do so to St. Paul's. You may also want to send a note to Vern. His address is: 5111 S. Renewal Lane, Tucson, Arizona 85747.

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

FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT PEOPLE - Friends of the Night People and St Paul's are reaching out to volunteers for the 4th Monday 4:30pm to 7:30pm. Without saying, the need is great. Without saying, the need is greater and more challenging. PLEASE text Lee Clukey at 716 631-9855 if there is any chance you may want to volunteer.

MORE NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT PEOPLE: Faith White has been in contact as well with The staff at Friends. They have begun serving meals on Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 5-7 pm. Their numbers of meals served and needs of those they help continues to grow. Last year from March through September they served 18,788 meals. This year, that number has increased dramatically for the same time period to **80,064**. The need is greater than ever, especially as they prepare for the upcoming holiday season and winter.

Faith White has been dropping off donations to The Friends. Shebhas noted that there is a great need for clothing for men, women and children, especially coats, boots, gloves and hats but also blankets and sleeping bags. Those items/donations can be dropped at church or call Faith at **688-4478** if you need her to pick up your donations (leave a message if necessary).

DASH'S REGISTER TAPES: St. Paul's gets \$2.50 for every \$100 in tapes! **Please save your tapes**, ask your friends & neighbors to save them too, then bring them to church and put them in the box in the narthex or the envelope on the social hall bulletin board.

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.

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.

UPCOMING/CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

ALTAR GUILD: I believe all members were emailed a schedule for the year. If you have any questions, please contact Julia Levy at 479-3107.

February: Sandy Emser.

March: Rita Sturgis.

BOOK CLUB: No current information available.

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. You need proof of residency and proof of income. Cutoff for income level varies depending on the number in household.

The Deadline for the March Edition is Tuesday February 16, 2021

Please send your articles and pictures to stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com AND/OR to the church office at stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com

