



# The Voice

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## May 2021

I'm curious about our expectations...of God, of ourselves, of the world, and of the future. Expectations can often help inform and create our reality. Sometimes I think the church could use an examination of its expectations.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about moving Sunday worship to 10 AM beginning June 6, plans to declutter the building, and the Chiavetta's chicken barbecue on Friday, May 7. Karl Kristoff has written a thorough update from the call committee. In regards to that process, I ask you to remain hopeful and patient. Trust that a great candidate for St. Paul's will be presented. We heard from the synod office that it may take a bit of time. The pandemic has made some of that work harder.

In my role as your interim pastor, lately I've been thinking about the expectations that you have as a congregation. I wonder what you expect your future to be. Where are you on the continuum from optimistic to pessimistic? Do you see St. Paul's future as a thriving future or simply surviving? I ask these questions because I believe they say something about what your future will become.

I believe our expectations inform the decisions we make, and can push us in many directions. Sometimes I worry about your expectations of yourselves. I want you to thrive, and so I want to suggest that we adjust your expectations.

People of God of St. Paul's of 68 Eagle Street in Williamsville, New York...what if you planned and expected to be wildly faithful, successful and thrive even beyond your boldest dreams? What if today, and this week, and this month, and this summer you crafted a plan to thrive, and began taking the steps necessary to make that happen?

How would worship be planned if we expected to experience an encounter with the divine each week we gathered in the sanctuary and at home? What adult education needs to happen now to root you more deeply in your faith and make plans to reach out into your neighborhoods with God's love? What plans for caring for the the needs of children from birth through elementary, middle school, high school, college and beyond could you put in place and begin living out?

I'm asking you this month to imagine thriving and then go and make that thriving happen. Plan for success instead of decline. Create the scaffolding to support the relationships of St. Paul's. Imagine places for people who are not here yet, and invite your neighbors and friends into the conversations and plans. In everything that you do going forward, make space for the stranger, the not-yet-here person. And, make space for their desires, their understandings of God, and their hopes, so that new ideas and new life can intermingle with those of us already here.

A first step in doing all of this is a spirit of openness and willingness to declutter our space, our hearts and our minds. Build upon what you know and what you have done since 1869. Imagine how different this church's life looks than it did then, and how it might need to look different on into your future.

Raise your expectations to imagine thriving and success as the church. Then go out and make it happen. The possibilities are real and hopeful. I wonder what may be in store for St. Paul's in its next season of life.

Will you wonder, imagine and hope with me?

Pastor Adam

My fellow Members

As we close the Easter Season, we begin our journey forward in our search for a new Pastor.

The Ministry Site Profile has been sent on to Synod. Our call committee: Karl Kristoff Chairperson, Cheryl Parr, Emily Dufrene, Joe Browne, Dawn Sagerman, Dave Nuzzo and Sara Smith have begun their work. The Call Committee, Council, Bishop Macholz and Julie Grindle (the Synod call process staff-person) met (via Zoom) on April 12. Among other things, we discussed the package (benefits, compensation, etc.) we can offer a pastor who might consider St. Paul's.

Council is in the process of reevaluating of who we are, and how we do things. The first of the items looked at was our practice of two services on Sunday mornings. After looking at the level of participation in worship, it was decided we would change our current (pre-Covid) model of two services each week to one service starting at 10:00 am. We feel this would benefit members that have young families as well as some of our older members who have a hard time making a 9:00 service. It was also felt that other programming could be offered on a Sunday morning to all our members. More to follow on that. The change to one service will begin Sunday, June 6th.

We, as a council, have also decided to offer both grape juice and wine at communion, responding to a request. This will allow members that are not able or do not desire to take wine to fully participate in the celebration of Holy Communion. This, too, will begin June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Council is also discussing doing a "Spring Cleaning" of our Church, ridding ourselves of those things which no longer serve us. I would like to see members of the choir get together and clean out the choir room, people who are familiar with our Sunday School do the Sunday School and other groups within the church to look at those areas they use as well as what is stored. This will be a plus as we begin anew with a new Pastor. We would truly begin with a "clean" slate.

The Ministry Site Profile is available for all members to see. If you would like to see the report submitted to Synod, Christine can get a copy of it to you. Those of you who receive emails from St. Paul's received the profile electronically.

May God give us Blessings, as we begin the final stages of our search.

George A. Roeser

Council President

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**--YOUTH NEWS --**

**LCLC Registration is Open**

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center recently opened registration for summer camp this year. This is a hopeful thing after not having a camping season last year. Check out their website ([www.lclcenter.org](http://www.lclcenter.org)) for more information. If you have questions or need financial assistance to attend camp, please talk with Pastor Adam.

**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](http://www.elca.org/gathering) for more information.

## **Call Committee and Process**

This Committee was appointed by the Church Council to receive and help process a recommendation or recommendations, as the case may be, of a candidate or candidates to become our next Pastor. The Committee's members are Joe Brown, Emily Dufrene, David Nuzzo, Cheryl Parr, Dawn Sagerman and Sara Smith.

During its second organizational meeting, the Committee elected me as its chair. As many of you may know, our Committee represents a good cross section of the Congregation – members who are relatively new to the parish and members whose families have been here for generations – members with young children and members with no children – younger members and older members – men and women. And I believe our focus will reflect that diversity.

This is the first of a series of reports I hope to share with you concerning our progress.

During our two organizational meetings, in addition to electing a chairperson, we discussed the call process, including written guidance from our Synod, some good, practical advice from Pastor Adam, the steps necessary going forward to having our next Pastor begin and the general roles of our members during the process. Most importantly, both during and between our meetings, we discussed and revised the draft Ministry Site Profile previously made available to the Congregation.

We are now pleased to report that, following a review of the Ministry Site Profile by the members of the Church Council during its last meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021, that was also attended by our Synod's Bishop and the Assistant to the Bishop for Mobility, our congregational Profile was approved for submission to the Synod, which was accomplished on April 13, 2021. A copy of the Profile is on file in the Church Office for anyone wishing to review it.

Our Profile will now be posted on a special site maintained by the Synod for review by potential candidates. As candidates indicate their interest in becoming our next Pastor, they will be vetted by the Synod Office in an effort to determine which of them would be the best fit for St. Paul's. Then, as is the Synod's custom, the Bishop will refer one candidate at a time for consideration and interview by our Committee. We also are permitted to suggest names of potential candidates to the Bishop for consideration. While it is possible in unusual circumstances for us to receive more than one nomination from the Bishop at a time, the likelihood is that we will receive the name of only one candidate at a time, as we have in the past.

Once our Committee has recommended a candidate to the Church Council, and the Council recommends the candidate, the Congregation will meet in special session, during which the candidate will lead us in worship, and after which there will be a vote on whether that candidate is to be our next Pastor.

The above, of course, is just a brief summary of the call process, and we will continue to keep you posted in more detail as it unfolds. Meanwhile, our Committee will be meeting to prepare for the interview process. During that process, we will be listening not only to the candidate under consideration, but also for how God is speaking to us through the Holy Spirit.

In closing, we ask for both any questions you may have and your prayers for us as we strive to discern who best can become our next spiritual leader.

Yours in Christ,  
Karl W. Kristoff

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**Sunday Worship time: Starting June 6, 2021** Sunday Worship time will move to **10:00am.**

## **Ongoing Events**

**Confirmation Class**—Every Sunday from 10:45-11:45 via Zoom

**Zoom Check-ins and/or education** Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

## Live Streaming Worship

The 9 AM worship will be live streamed each Sunday morning. You can view it at that time at St. Paul's YouTube page, or you can watch it later after as it will be uploaded to YouTube. The plan is to continue to email out and post to St. Paul's website an order of worship so those watching remotely can more fully participate.

## MONTH OF MARCH FOOD DRIVE

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

You never cease to amaze me. Thrivent Financial issued a challenge to church to collect non-perishable food items for a not-for-profit food pantry during the month of March. The first 50 churches to collect would get \$500 for the pantry of their choice. We decided to accept the challenge to collect food for Community of Good Neighbors (formerly Resurrection Lutheran Church in Buffalo.) Within 10 days, we had 500 items and will be one of the churches to win a \$500 check for Community of Good Neighbors which they will be receiving in May (see below).

However, we collected well over a thousand food items. We were aware of several other pantries needing help as well. St. Paul's of Eggertsville has two food trucks so I delivered 2 loads of food to them. Another load was taken to Parkside Lutheran Church for their pantry. Faith United Church of Christ at Maple & Hopkins in Amherst received a load for their outdoor pantry and another load went to Raymond Rd Church in Niagara County. Then the bulk of the food was taken to Community of Good Neighbors in two pick-up trucks, courtesy of Skip Larson and Rick Andrews. In addition to the backs of the trucks, both had seats and floors filled with food as did my SUV.

St. Paul's members not only brought in bags of food to church, I also received many cash and check donations that I used to shop twice a day for three weeks for things like canned meats and still had \$100 left the day before Easter when the drive ended. With Pastor Adam's approval, I purchased Wegman's gift cards for him to use at his discretion. Every penny went for food.

As I said, you never cease to amaze me. You all have been so generous in responding to my requests for help. Thank you, thank you.

Peace and Love to all, Faith White

P.S. Someone brought in food in two new Wegman's bags, one blue and one orange. Just let me know who you are and I will get the bags back to you.

## LETTER FROM THRIVENT

Good afternoon, Faith and Pastor Adam.

Your Thrivent Action Team's efforts on behalf of **Community of Good Neighbors** has earned that organization a \$500 donation from the Northeast Thrivent Member Network. Payment is currently being processed by Thrivent. Please advise the receiving organization to look for that check to arrive in the mail no later than May 7, 2021.

Food Pantries are in desperate need of supplies, especially given the economic impact of the Coronavirus. Between Lent and Easter, you and other Thrivent members from across the Northeast collectively donated a considerable amount of volunteer hours to gather thousands of food and care items for those in need. The way you and your team have chosen to Live Generously is such an inspiration!

Thank you,

Jennifer Coan-Mahmood

Thrivent Engagement Specialist

Northeast Region

[Jennifer.Coan-Mahmood@Thrivent.com](mailto:Jennifer.Coan-Mahmood@Thrivent.com)

**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.

**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. This is to distribute TO GO MEALS ONLY from the Friends facility 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.

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. She also 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 as church or call Faith at **688-4478** if you need her to pick up your donations (leave a message if necessary).

**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.

**May:** Kathy Hannon  
**June:** Shirley Shannon

### **CHANGING LIVES IN BANGLADESH - from Marcia Brown, mission interpreter**

In Bangladesh, Farida works as a housekeeper, and her husband is a field laborer. They live near the Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh Hospital, which offers self-help groups for women that provide an opportunity for savings, small business development, economic and financial training, and relational support. When Farida joined the group, she received training in homestead vegetable gardening. She now tells her neighbors how her life has changed. In addition to her cleaning work, she now has an extra income source selling her vegetables at the local weekly market. Her economic status has improved, and her children have their basic needs met. "I will always be grateful to Almighty God and to the Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh."

As you plan your garden this spring, think of Farida and her vegetable garden. It wouldn't happen without your gifts to Mission Support and to ELCA World Hunger, which support families as they grow food to nourish themselves and build safer, healthier communities for the long term, helping to put an end to hunger—for good. **Thank you!**

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



**ST. PAUL'S FUNDRAISER  
DRIVE UP CHICKEN BARBECUE**

**Friday, May 7th, 2021 • 4:00-6:30 pm**

*(or until we run out)*

**St. Paul's Parking Lot**

**68 Eagle St. Williamsville, NY 14221**

**Dinners are \$11**

Includes: half a chicken, potato salad, coleslaw and a roll & butter

**Proceeds to**

**Benefit**



**Home of My Own** of WNY

*On my own but not alone*

**[homeofmyownofwny.org](http://homeofmyownofwny.org)**

**PRE-SALE TICKETS** may be purchased by  
calling the St. Paul's office at (716) 634-2330 or MAIL  
[stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com)

## PARISH REGISTER

### PRAYER LIST – FEBRUARY VOICE



Dick Atkins  
Arlene Lauer  
Marge Kolb  
Ken Welton  
Ron Edwards

Jim Murray  
Rosemary Rizzo  
Tony Rizzo  
Paul Busdiecker

Also, friends and family -

Valerie and Mike Machajewski ...Friends of Nancy Stoehr  
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  
Family of Ronald Lagattuta...Family of Annette Berg  
Ray Broeker.....friend of the Berg family  
Cortney Wilkins.....friend of the Berg family  
Mark Schmidt.....close friend of Lambert family  
Jon Bazemore...Extended family of Lamberts  
Katie Stoehr...family of Kathy Stoehr

Please send prayer requests/changes to [stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com) and/or to [stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com)

Robert Wolff died in December 2020 while in Florida, please keep his family in your prayers.

Rick Bossert, brother of Bob Bossert, died on April 17, 2021. Please keep his family in your prayers

**LADIES AID - The Quilting Has Returned~** You may have noticed the 14 boxes sitting in the corner of the Social Hall. They contain 47 quilts that we were unable to send to Lutheran World Relief, because of covid. On May 4th they will begin their journey around the world, as needed. Sandy Easter and I will load up our subs and drive them to St. James Lutheran Church in Berthold, NY. There they will be loaded onto a truck with quilts from other churches. From there they will travel to Baltimore, MD, headquarters of Lutheran World Relief. Aside from those quilts, 200 masks were also sent to MD.

You may remember an explosion that occurred in a warehouse in Beirut on Aug. 4, 2019. There were 3 containers of quilts sitting in that warehouse ready to be loaded. There was one more on its way. It was assumed they would be lost. God works in mysterious ways. After everything was investigated and examined, there 4 containers, holding 24,000 quilts were not contaminated and were good to go. They were distributed to the people of Beirut and across Lebanon. Praise the Lord!

We meet on Tuesday morning from 9 to 11. We have been tying 2 quilts a week in preparation of next year. We have ladies who don't feel comfortable coming out yet so they work from home sewing squares together or hemming. Stop in and visit. We do wear masks. Nancy Noble

## ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE TO THE SEVERE STORMS IN OUR SOUTHERN STATES

**Our response:** Lutheran Disaster Response is communicating with the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, the Southwestern Texas Synod, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, and Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response. Congregations are already conducting relief efforts such as supplying water, food and generators to those in need and opening their doors to serve as shelters. Long-term recovery may include repairing water-damaged homes, disaster case management and supporting vulnerable populations.

### What you can do:

**Pray** - Please pray for the communities that were impacted by the winter storm. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those who are working diligently to care for affected communities.

**Give** - Your gifts will support storm survivors. Gifts to "[U.S. Severe Storms](#)" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by severe storms.

**Connect:** To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

- Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response [alerts](#). Check the Lutheran Disaster Response [blog](#).
- Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#) and follow @ELCALDR on [Twitter](#).

## 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 household.

***The deadline for the JUNE edition of the voice is Wednesday, May 19, 2021***

***Please send your articles and pictures to [stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com)***

***AND/OR to the church office [stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com)***