



# The Voice

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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**November 2020**

## Thriving into the future

We need one another to thrive! This is true of any group of people...family, community, nation, and congregation. We need one another. None of us, nor any small group of us, can accomplish and do what we can all do together. November 2020 is so strange...a pandemic, an election, a desire to return to something. I invite you to imagine what thriving looks like, especially as we pivot towards the future.

At first glance, thriving seems to infer more and bigger. Perhaps the perception is that a larger congregation is more thriving than a smaller one. Instead I want you to think about thriving in non-numerical terms. Congregations of all sizes can thrive. Congregations of all sizes can also be merely surviving.

A thriving church is about reaching out and about reaching deeply. To reach out is about being connected with one another and intentionally inviting others into the community. Reaching out also reminds us to call, text, email—communicate—with those you miss and haven't seen in a while.

However, if we only focus on reaching out, we are missing a big part of thriving. The people and organizations and congregations that I see thriving are also seeking deeper understanding and interconnectedness. These places are enriching their relationships with God, one another, and the world around. Thriving then continues and becomes contagious.

We need one another to thrive! As you, and we, look back at 2020, I invite you to, yes, celebrate the ways that we have survived. But also, dwell deeply in the ways that this community is thriving. Dwell in your growth, rejoice in your faith, open up to new ways of life for you and for us. God desires that you, and we, thrive.

As 2020 soon pivots to 2021, I hope that we will imagine a thriving future, where growth is expected and planned for. Let's lay the foundation now, so that this future of thriving can be imagined, and then lived. This foundational work is our work together, with me as your intentional interim pastor, so that once you enter the call process and call your next pastor, you are ready to build relationships and thrive with one another.

One aspect of thriving is being a steward of the church. 2020 has been an interesting financial year. I believe that St. Paul's continues to be stable financially. We want this to continue in the future. I understand that many households' finances are uncertain right now. I ask that you consider how you can best support St. Paul's financially. Please consider what ways you can increase your financial commitment to this community. Remember that you can set up online giving to make giving more streamlined and convenient through tithe.ly. I hope that you desire for this congregation to thrive, and that through your finances, time, and prayers, you will commit to doing your part towards this desire.

We need one another to thrive! Over these last 2 months of 2020, and on into 2021, will you commit to the faithful working, hopeful dreaming, and prayerful moving towards thriving?

Living together with faith, hope and prayer,

Pastor Adam

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## **President's Message**

Members of St. Paul's

As we are all adjusting to what is today, I hope that there is some anticipation for our future.

Many things are being done, and many more things have yet to be done. Our ministry site profile has to be filled out, we have to decide the future shape of St. Paul's and what our mission will look like, we have to start thinking about our call committee and who will be on it?

Some of this can be done by Council, but most of it we would like others to have a voice in. This can be accomplished through meetings (either in person or zoom). We only ask that you let me, or Pr. Adam know that you are interested so that we can get the process moving along.

At this month's meeting Council approved the confirmation of Brian Kuehfus who will be confirmed on October 25<sup>th</sup> and Brianna Smith and Grant Langlotz who will be confirmed on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Due to the current concerns of group gathering the confirmations have been separated to allow each confirmand the ability to have family present for their special day. God's speed to them as they enter into their new role as members of St. Paul's.

Financially, we have been very blessed by you, our members. We are in the black, however we must keep in mind that the reason we are in the black is due to the loan that we were given earlier this year. The PPP money has not yet become a grant and until it does, we (Council) are treating it as a loan that must be repaid. However, we are optimistic that it will become a grant.

Our annual stewardship drive will be happening in November. We are asking that we all consider our giving and fill out the cards and return them to the office ASAP. This way we can begin working on next year's budget.

I and Council would like to thank you, the members, for all you have done to support us and our mission at St. Paul's as we move through this "time".

God Bless

George A. Roeser, President

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Mission Message from Marcia Brown

## **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

In the middle of a pandemic, when so much of the news is bleak, let's stop and give thanks for so many blessings. All the websites below can be copied and pasted, or just go to ELCA.org and explore. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

We are thankful for:

A church that feeds the hungry. See [elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development](http://elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development) /ELCA-world-hunger.

A church that believes everyone deserves justice and dignity. See [elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/advocacy](http://elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/advocacy).

Chaplains that minister to our troops overseas. See [elca.org/our-work/leaders/federal-chaplaincy-ministries](http://elca.org/our-work/leaders/federal-chaplaincy-ministries).

Over 200 missionaries in 40+ countries all over the world. See [elca.org/our-work/global-mission/global-service/support-missionaries](http://elca.org/our-work/global-mission/global-service/support-missionaries).

A church that supports and aids areas that have experienced disasters. See [elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/](http://elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/) /Lutheran-disaster-response.

Lutheran camps that foster the faith journey of our children. See [elca.org/our-work/related-ministries/outdoor-ministry](http://elca.org/our-work/related-ministries/outdoor-ministry).  
26 Lutheran colleges and universities. See [elca.org/our-work/leadership/colleges-and-universities](http://elca.org/our-work/leadership/colleges-and-universities).  
Campus ministries that minister to our young adults while away at school. See [elca.org/related-ministries/campus-ministry](http://elca.org/related-ministries/campus-ministry).  
A devotional tool to learn more about the Bible. See [elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/book-of-faith](http://elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/book-of-faith).  
A church that responds to people caught in conflict. See [elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/Lutheran-immigration-and-refugee-service](http://elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/Lutheran-immigration-and-refugee-service).  
Migrant minors who are protected and advocated for. See [elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/AMMPRO](http://elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/AMMPRO).  
A church that thoughtfully and carefully explores social issues. See [elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-statement](http://elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-statement).

All these widely varied and essential programs are possible because of your Mission support.

Thank you!

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

### **Members of St. Paul's (Reprinted from last newsletter)**

In an attempt to keep everybody informed, please take note of the changes you will see in the church as we return to in-person worship.

**First and Foremost** - If you are feeling ill, have been exposed to COVID-19, have compromised immune systems, or at a high risk of exposing others, please stay home and worship with us on our online offerings

- If you do not feel well, please stay home.
- If you have had a temperature over 100.4 F? Stay Home!
- Recent coughing or wheezing? Stay Home!
- Fatigued or extremely tired? Stay Home!
- Do you have lower respiratory illness or shortness of breath? Stay Home!

**Entering** - The only entrance to the church which will be open is the door near the office. This door was chosen as it has ready access to the elevator for those who may need it.

We are asking that there be no "congregating" of members inside of the entrance area. If you would like to talk please do so outside.

Once inside please follow the Ushers directions and go directly to your pew.

**Seating will be from the front of the church to the back before the service.**

**The congregation will be dismissed from back to front after the service.**

**The Sanctuary** - Upon entering the Sanctuary there will be an offering plate to drop your envelopes into before or after the service. There will be no offering taken during the service. In addition, please take a minute to fill out the attendance card so we know who has been in church on a given Sunday in the remote change we need to contact you.

One family per pew (family has been defined as a group of people that reside together).

Please sit only where indicated. At this time the Choir Loft and Balcony will be used to accommodate parishioners, however, we must keep physically distant from one another (unless of course, we live together).

Masks are to be worn when in the Church building (masks will be available in the entranceway to the building).

Note the location of hand sanitizers on the back of the pews and the entrance to the sanctuary.

**Housekeeping** - The Restrooms outside of the Fellowship Hall will be open. We ask that they be treated as a single-use restroom for the time being (one person at a time). There will be a spray bottle for people to spray down the surfaces they have touched before their leaving. Wiping down will not be necessary.

Wastebaskets will be located outside of the restroom doors so that you can dispose of your paper towels after leaving.

I would like to remind everyone that contributions can be mailed to the church, sent from your bank, or made through the app Tiythe.ly. you can do this by going to <https://get.tithe.ly/>. Full instructions for using the app can be found on our website <http://www.stpaulswilliamsville.org>.

## PARISH REGISTER



### PRAYER LIST – NOVEMBER VOICE

Dick Atkins	Jim Murray
Eric Busdiecker	Rosemary Rizzo
Kathy Habermehl	Tony Rizzo
Marge Kolb	Ken Welton
Pr. Tim Madsen	Arlene Lauer

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  
Family of John Faulring, Friends of Annette Berg

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

**LADIES AID - The Quilting Has Returned~** The Ladies Aid meets on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 to make and tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We welcome anyone to join us. If you can tie a knot, we're looking for you!

We boxed up 48 quilts from last year, ready to be shipped when we get notification. Due to the virus and quarantine in most states, we are waiting. Some of our ladies are quilting and hemming at home but we really need people to help us tie the quilts on our frame.

**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 starting in October.....hopefully.

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.

This year again, Faith White will be coordinating the collection of frozen or cooked turkeys at St. Paul's as well as cash donations she can use to purchase turkeys. 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).

**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 ACTIVITIES**

### **BOOK CLUB:**

Our next selection is Women Talking by Miriam Toews. We will meet on November 15th at 3:00 in the Friendship Room. Faith will be our hostess.

### **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.

**ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 - For those needing a ride to your polling place on Election Day, Faith White has volunteered to provide a ride. Please call her at 688-4478.**

**EMAIL ADDRESS REQUEST** - We are in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of email addresses to use when contacting members with important messages as well as the transmitting of newsletters and other information. Please take a minute to send an email to Christine at [stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com) so your information can be added.

*The deadline for the December edition of the voice is Wednesday, November 18, 2020 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)*

# NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 All Saints Day</b> <i>End of Daylight Saving Time</i> 9:00am Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30am-Ladies Aid	<b>4</b> Friendship Hall 6-8pm Home of My Own  Social Hall 6-8:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am Holy Communion	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30am-Ladies Aid 7:30pm - Council	<b>11 Veterans Day</b>  Social Hall 6-8:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Holy Communion  3:00pm-Book Club	<b>16</b> <b>December Voice Deadline</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30am-Ladies Aid	<b>18</b>  Social Hall 6-8:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Social Hall 12pm -6 George Roeser
<b>22 Christ the King</b> 9:00am Holy Communion	<b>23</b> 4:15pm-Volunteers carpool to Friends of Night People	<b>24</b> 9:30am-Ladies Aid	<b>25</b> Social Hall 6-8:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>26 Thanksgiving Day</b>  Office closed	<b>27</b> <b>Office closed</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Advent 1</b> 9:00am Holy Communion	<b>30</b>					