



# The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## Connect to us on Facebook

Rev. Adam J. Miller-Stubbendick, Pastor  
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Cell: (402)613-0335 call or text

**October 2020**

Dear People of St. Paul's,

This October newsletter marks my third month with you as your intentional interim pastor. In being at least a little ways into this liminal time, I want to share a few things with you.

**Firstly**, if you are primarily participating in St. Paul's from a distance because of concerns for health and safety, I fully respect that decision. I hope that the twice weekly YouTube experiences are beneficial for you in your faith and connectivity to God, St. Paul's, and the world around you. However, I am realizing that I have little to no interaction with those of you whom I have not met in person. I am asking you, if I have not met you yet, to please email, call, or text me. I'd like to hear a bit of your story, what is making sense in your life right now, and how St. Paul's could better or best fit into your life. Please, if I have not met you, reach out so I can get to know those who do not yet feel safe gathering in person. My phone number is 402-613-0335, and my email is [PastorAdamMS@gmail.com](mailto:PastorAdamMS@gmail.com). I will do small group and individual meetings to get to know many at St. Paul's over the remainder of 2020. I want to begin with those of you whom I have not met, but would like to meet soon.

**Secondly**, I want you to know that St. Paul's council is laying the groundwork for the call process of finding the congregation's next pastor. To do this work well, the congregation needs to understand who it is, and some of its hopes, dreams, and goals for the future. I have met with nearly everyone on the council for their perspectives. I am trying to hear from others in the congregation next. The process of calling a pastor begins with this self-study work. Then a small group of 3-4 members of the congregation will work with me on writing St. Paul's Ministry Site Profile.

Once this profile is completed, it is shared with the wider church to begin the search process. The synod office is the matchmaker in our system, suggesting candidates to the congregation. A Call Committee of 6 members of St. Paul's will be appointed. The committee is made up of non-council members, who can speak to the breadth of the congregation's history, present, and future. This committee will have the first opportunity to meet a potential pastor, hear her/him lead worship, and conduct an interview. If the call committee and the candidate both affirm the desire to continue in the process, the candidate then interviews with the council. If both the council and candidate affirm the process, then the candidate meets the whole congregation, and the congregation holds a special congregational meeting to vote on calling the candidate to be its next pastor.

I don't want to get ahead of ourselves in sharing this whole process with you. Instead, I want you to be informed of what is to come. We need to do some deep listening to one another, to the community around us, and to God to first discern what directions God is calling us towards. With a firm ability to express who St. Paul's is in relationship to God, one another, and the surrounding community, the profile we need to complete writes quite easily, and a better pastoral match can be found. If you desire to work with me and a couple of others on the writing of the Ministry Site Profile, please let me know.

**Finally**, I want to share three pastoral notes.

—I share prayers and promises of resurrection hope to the family of the four members of St. Paul's who have died in my couple of months with you—Les Busdiecker, Cal Lauer, Jim Browne, and Wayne Hill. There is much to grieve.

—I also share hope and promises of love and welcome as Everett Philip Johnson and Archer Friedrich Neff were both washed in the waters of Baptism since I began at St. Paul's. Please pray fervently for them and their families as they live life wet...forgiven, loved, and welcomed by God.

—Three young people of St. Paul’s—Brianna Smith, Grant Langlotz, and Brian Kuehfus—will affirm the promises of Baptism on their confirmation days in October and November. As things seem so different and strange in 2020, some things continue to be certain...death, new life, and God’s promises to watch over and care for us now and forever. Deaths, baptisms and confirmations witness to these truths here at St. Paul’s.

I invite you to wrap the world around us in prayer and hope. There is much going on that needs our loving concern, especially all that is going on outside of the church. Please always cling to the good news that God wraps you in love, a love so intimate and wide and deep that we can’t fully know or express it.

May God’s love and peace sustain you, and us, and all in these days,

Pastor Adam

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### **President’s Message**

Dear St. Paul’s Members

Well, here we are! September, rally day, beginning of Sunday School. The choirs rehearsing and singing, returning to two Sunday services. The individual groups which have taken off the summer begin meeting again for the fall, winter, and spring. Most of those things which September brings will not be happening this year, and when they do return, they will be happening in a new format.

St. Paul’s is in some respects at the same place. Most of what we have known, will not be returning as we have known it. It, too will be changing to a new format.

WE are beginning to look towards OUR future, as a congregation, a community center, a place to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and God his father. We must be on the lookout for those in our community that have needs that we can help with. It is time for all of us to look at what WE as individuals can do to help move St. Paul’s into that future. There are many places where everyone’s efforts would be most appreciated.

Moving toward a new pastorate incorporates steps that must be taken as a congregation. First, there is a document called the “Ministry Site Profile”. This is a sixteen-page document that covers who we are, where we are, Who’s who in the congregation, our budget, our vision, community trends, what are our needs in a pastor, what is our purpose and mission in this place and what expectations would we have of the pastor we would like to call.

While we are moving through this process, we will need everybody’s assistance, and input. The last time we went through this process we were not the same place we are today. We were a different congregation with different needs and wants. The make up of the congregation has changed and all of that and more is to be taken into consideration when we call our next Pastor.

If you are willing to work with us on any off these responsibilities, please let me or Pr. Adam know. Believe it or not Council does not have a lot to do with the process itself, that is up to another committee.

Peace as we begin our walk

Yours in Christ

George

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## Mission Message from Marcia Brown

### **FARMING IN CAMBODIA**

Toa and Cheing are parents and farmers in Cambodia. They have always grown rice and corn, which they sell to cover their basic expenses. They have four children, ages 14 to 20, and worry about making ends meet and providing for the childrens' futures. In 2018, Toa joined a vegetable producers group organized by Life With Dignity, a longtime partner of ELCA World Hunger, which serves vulnerable communities. The program Toa joined was designed to help farmers adapt to changing climates. She learned about irrigation systems, protective netting, and different seeds, to save labor and water, and to grow a wider variety of crops to make her income more secure and reliable. She planted cucumbers and earned four times as much as her corn crop would have yielded, using her profits for food, school fees, clothing, and savings. After her second crop, she bought a bicycle for her daughter to get to school more easily. Toa is happy that she can now support her family, her children's education, and save for the future.

Life With Dignity is only one of many programs in more than 60 countries supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. From education to microloans, from health care to support for migrants and refugees, the programs you fund are making a difference in many lives. ***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 chance we need to contact you.

The cushions have been removed from those pews which can be used. This was done because the soft surfaces are harder to sanitize.

The Sanctuary will be noticeably marked with the pews that can be used.

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.

There will be no singing.

The procedure for taking Communion will be explained by the Pastor at the beginning of the service.

**There will be no physical contact during the "Passing of the Peace". This can be accomplished using the "Peace Sign", putting your hand over your heart while looking in their direction at the person you are sharing with, or simply bowing towards them.**

During Communion please take notice of the taping on the main aisle carpet, the carpet is marked to allow for physical distancing. **When taking communion please advance to the next floor marking as you approach the Altar, allowing for physical distancing.**

Following the service, we ask that everyone remove their Bulletins, place Hymnals back in the hymnal rack (back of each pew), and pick up any items that may have dropped, or left by children. This will make the sanitizing easier and lessen the exposure risk for the custodian.

**Housekeeping** - The air conditioning system will be open windows and fans. Using the HVAC system during this time is not recommended.

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.

There will be no coffee hour or fellowship time. If you wish to visit please do it outside where it is much safer, but even there please remember to physically distance yourself from those you are visiting with.

ALL other areas of the building will be closed until further notice.

I would like to remind everyone that contributions can be mailed to the church, sent from your bank, or made through the app Tiyhe.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 – OCTOBER VOICE



Dick Atkins  
Ursula Grau  
Kathy Habermehl  
Marge Kolb  
Arlene Lauer

Jim Murray  
Rosemary Rizzo  
Tony Rizzo  
George Roeser  
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:

James (Jim) Browne died on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Please keep Jane Browne and her family in your prayers. Memorial was family only on 09/19/2020

Conrad (Cal) Lauer died on September 5, 2020. Please keep Arlene Lauer and her family in your prayers. Memorial was family only on 09/12/2020

Wayne Hill died on September 22, 2020. Please keep Cathy Hill and her family in your prayers. services are TBD

Baptism of Archer Neff set for September 30.

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

At this time the plan will be to distribute TO GO MEALS ONLY from the Friends facility. We would need 3 volunteers.

Without saying, the need is great. Without saying, the need is greater and more challenging.

I will try to visit Friends ASAP to note the new setup so I can better address any concerns.

PLEASE text Lee Clukey at 716 631-9855 if there is any chance you may want to volunteer.

**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](tel:7168421300). 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 November edition of the voice is Thursday, October 15, 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)*