



The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Rev. Adam J. Miller-Stubbendick, Pastor
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September 2020

A Message From Pastor Adam -

As I write to you today, I'm thinking about beginnings and newness, while we're also in the midst of the sameness and strangeness of the past many months. Starting in a new place, as I often do, has its particularities. Starting with you now means more unknowns and more uncertainties than any of us are used to. I want to use this space in St. Paul's newsletter this month to share some updates, some details on life together, and some thoughts that, hopefully, will help us begin together in this community of faith.

Worship

In-person worship happens weekly on Sundays at 9 AM. We will continue only having the 9 AM in-person worship for the remainder of 2020, unless dramatic positive changes happen regarding the coronavirus. An online version of worship will continue to be posted to St. Paul's YouTube channel each week. I remain unsure of the future of the Wednesday night reflection, study, worship experience. I will let you know when I know more. For now, something is posted to YouTube each Wednesday for you to think about and pray through.

Other In-Person Events

Any additional meetings in person, whether they be youth Sunday school, confirmation class, adult opportunities, or other things that I haven't listed, will not happen until at least October, at the earliest. I want to give time to see how the resumption of the school year in western New York impacts Covid-19 numbers and infection rates.

Sunday School/Children's Christian Education

St. Paul's long-time Sunday school leaders, Kim Retallak and Julianna Woite, shared in early 2020, before the pandemic or Pastors Wendy and Tim's retirement was known, that they were no longer going to lead that program. Please join me in thanking them for their leadership.

Even as regular fall offerings like Sunday school will not begin in September, we need to make plans for what to do and how to gather again when it is time. If you are interested in working with me to make Sunday school plans, please contact me. We will need a few parents and/or caring adults to work together on Sunday school.

Confirmation

I've been in contact with the families of St. Paul's eight confirmation-aged youth. We will work together on the program, and meeting the needs of the youth and their faith formation. I look forward to confirming 3 youth at the end of October, and developing what is to come with this milestone for youth, their families, and the congregation.

Homebound Care

With the pandemic, regular pastoral visitation of those unable to get out is on hold. When it is appropriate, public health-wise, I will resume this ministry. For now, I am hoping for a few people from the congregation to make regular contact with the homebound, remind them that they are not alone, and share Christ's presence through the phone, cards, or other means. If this is something you are interested in, please let me know.

Pastoral Care Needs & Communion

I am available as you or others need a pastoral ear or voice in your life. A challenge of becoming the pastoral presence for a congregation is that I do not know the needs of the community. So, I need your help. If you have a pastoral care need, or know of one that arises, please communicate it to me. I cannot care for you if I don't know that you

desire care. Email, text, or call me. I would rather hear about something from many of you, instead of not hearing about something at all.

If you would like to receive communion, and are not attending in-person Sunday worship, please contact me. I am most willing to share this Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing with you.

Welcoming Christine Blatz

At the same time of my beginning with you, Christine Blatz began as St. Paul's office presence. She and I both continue to learn the church office. She is the kind voice you will hear when you call the office. Her hours in the office remain as they were previously—8 AM-noon, Monday through Friday.

Please note that we are beginning to transition to using a Gmail email address for the office instead of the roadrunner address. It is: **Stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com**.

My Hours in the Office

As I write this article, I continue to wait for my local school district to share their plans for the fall. My oldest child is scheduled to begin Kindergarten. Once the school plan is known, then my office plan can be more firmly established.

Right now, you are likely to see me in the office on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings from 9 AM-12 noon. I am also there at additional times. Friday is the day that I step away for sabbath and family time. I return pressing messages on Fridays, but for regular things, I will get back to you another day.

Summary

In short, I appreciate your welcome and graciousness as I begin as your Intentional Interim Pastor. With all the unknowns in the world around us and in the church, if you need something, are curious, or want to talk with me, please reach out. I will respond with my best understandings, faithfulness, and patience.

Related to the pandemic, when any of us are together in person, we need to maintain physical distancing, wear masks, and regularly wash or sanitize our hands. I appreciate you caring for one another and the wider community in these ways.

I can be reached at **PastorAdamMS@gmail.com** or **402-613-0335** (call or text).

Thanks for being on this journey following our God in Christ. May the peace of Christ ground you, and us, in these days and in all of life!

Pastor Adam

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President's Message

Members of St. Paul's

Today, as I was at church helping to prepare for Lester Busdiecker's memorial service, Pr. Adam, asked me an intriguing question. Do we, St. Paul's, want to go directly into the call process, or do we want to reimagine who we are and what we do?

Now, St. Paul's has always been a giving congregation, we work with many social agencies, we help the friends of the night people, our quilters have sent blankets all over the world, we help with food drives and other area ministries. We have even helped to welcome people from other countries into the United States. Do these things define us, or are we simply helping out?

I personally would like to see us do some work on ourselves before we enter into the call process. I would like us to know who we are so that we call a Pastor who is a good fit. I don't want to see us call a pastor and realize that maybe he isn't the right fit. Best to know your shoe size before you buy shoes!

To that end I am asking each of you to think about that question. Do we want to go directly into the call process, or do we want to reimagine who we are. I am looking for input from each and everyone of you, we collectively are St. Paul's. You know how to reach me, its at the end of this note.

Other things that are happening around St. Paul's;

We welcomed Pr. Adam Miller-Stubbendick as our Intentional Interim pastor, he will be with us for one year to take care of our Pastoral needs.

On August 1, we also welcomed our new church secretary Mrs. Christine Blatz. Christine, along with Pr. Adam, is settling in and learning the ropes of their new positions.

Covid continues to "plague" us (no pun intended). We began in person worship on June 28th, and we continue to have in- person worship each Sunday at 9:00. We are averaging twenty to thirty people a week. Services both Wednesday and Sunday are still available on you tube and thanks to the efforts of Patrick and Pr. Adam that process has been streamlined so it is not as time consuming as it originally was.

The sanctuary has taken on a new look. The piano that was donated in memory of Shirley Maggio for the sanctuary, is now where it was intended to be. The piano which was in the social hall is now in the choir room where it can be better utilized.

Financially, thanks to the PUA loan we are still in pretty good financial shape, although member giving seems to have fallen off a bit. So please remember St. Paul's in your monthly budget, if you are able.

Slowly, we will return to some degree of normal, I personally am waiting for the day I don't have to hear the words, Covid, social distancing, and masks.

Please pass along YOUR thoughts on how we progress, this is an important time for us to examine St. Paul's. Is it all we, Individually and collectively what we want it to be?

Yours in Christ

George

georgeroeser@hotmail.com

Cell 716-361-8331 Home 716-937-3414

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING will be on Monday, 9/14 at 7 or 7:30 (probably via Zoom).

Mission Message from Marcia Brown

OUR CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE PANDEMIC

When one member of the body of Christ suffers, all suffer together. Launched in response to the unprecedented need caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the ELCA's CIVID-19 Response Fund supports the ministries of this church most in need and best positioned to make an impact.

In the US, unemployment has soared. We are seeing rising demands on our food pantries, homeless shelters, and social services. Around the world, millions of people living in poverty are facing this pandemic without reliable access to sanitation or health care.

At the same timer, congregations across the ELCA have quickly employed creative thinking, innovation, and new technology to continue ministering to members, those in need, and those hurting and searching for peace.

\$1.5 million has been raised to date, and this generosity is making an impact. For example:

- Support for congregations and local ministries serving communities that are disproportionately at risk from the pandemic, especially as it relates to health concerns, exposure risk and/or economic status.
- Support for the health, safety, and well-being of leaders and church employees who are critical to carrying out the mission of this church.
- Support ministries around the world that provide people in poverty with health care, sanitation and hygiene supplies, clean water, food, and shelter—resources critical to slowing the spread of the virus.

The needs are great. So are the opportunities. This response fund is made possible by your generous gifts. *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.

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>.

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 so your information can be added.

PARISH REGISTER

PRAYER LIST – SEPTEMBER VOICE



Dick Atkins	Cal and Arlene Lauer
Ursula Grau	Jim Murray
Marge Kolb	Rosemary Rizzo
Rev. Timothy Madsen	Tony Rizzo

Lester (Les) Busdiecker died on 7/29/2020. His memorial service took place on Thursday, 8/20/2020.

Everett Philip Johnson's baptism will take place on 8/25/2020, and will be publicly celebrated in worship on 8/30. His parents are Philip and Melissa Johnson. Siblings are Liam, Reece, and Cecelia. Baptismal Sponsors are Kelsey Johnston and Luke Wolfe.

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

ADDRESS CHANGE: Please make a note of the new address for Nancy Rasmusson, 55 Alexander Pkwy, Pendleton, NY 14120. Her phones are: (H) 716-260-1077 (no message), (C) 716-913-7710

THANK YOU - Diane and Kathi Busdiecker would like to thank everyone from St. Paul's for their thoughts and prayers, for the phone calls, and for coming to the memorial service during Les' illness and the most difficult time of losing Les so unexpectedly.

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 EVENTS

Baptism - Everett Philip Johnson's baptism will take place on 8/25/2020, and will be publicly celebrated in worship on 8/30. His parents are Philip and Melissa Johnson. Siblings are Liam, Reece, and Cecelia. Baptismal Sponsors are Kelsey Johnston and Luke Wolfe.

LUTHERAN CHARITIES FUNDRAISER



Since the Annual Golfing had to be cancelled, Lutheran Charities is holding a Drive-Thru Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ, which includes potato salad, Coleslaw, roll and butter. Pre-sale tickets are **STRONGLY** encouraged!

DATE: Wednesday, September 2, 2020

TIME: 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM or until sold out

PLACE: ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 6540 Main St., Williamsville, NY

Tickets are \$11 pre order, \$12 day of sale on site.

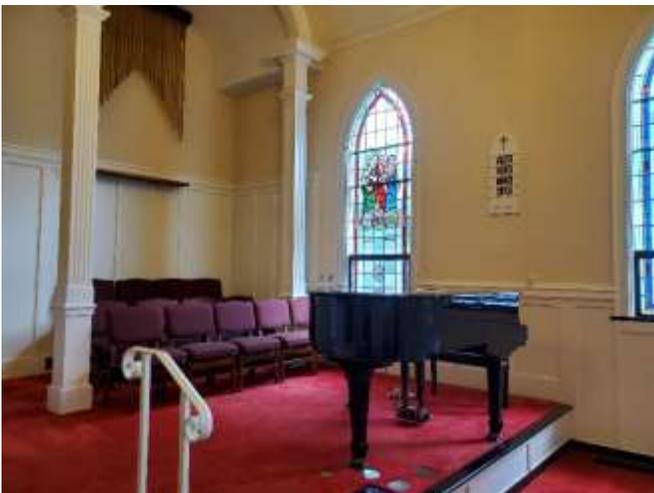
Order online at <http://www.wnylutherancharities.org> or by mail with check indicating # of meals payable to Lutheran Charities, Memo Chicken BBQ to Lutheran Charities, 6540 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221

Food Pantry Open in Clarence for Anyone in Need.



Lee Clukey reports that there is a Food Pantry operating at the Evangel Assembly of God Church 8180 Greiner Road every Tuesday from 6:30am to 11:00am. Lee is volunteering there. It is sponsored by the Mollack Foundation and supplies not only the usual canned and dry goods, but also fresh food and meat. Lee says come the earlier the better. It's all drive through and you need not be a Clarence resident. Anyone is welcome.

The piano has been moved to the Sanctuary!



The deadline for the October edition of the voice is Thursday, September 17, 2020

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

Or to the church office stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com