

The Link



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 2022

Pastor Page:

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Sometimes, or even usually, when I preach a sermon, I am preaching it to myself. That is, I am proclaiming things to you that really I need to hear, and hoping that if I need them, someone else might need them, too. And sometimes (and I hope this is the case for you, too), certain lines from my sermon stick with me long after I've gone home on Sunday, and not letting go. I assume this is the Holy Spirit, hard at work on my own heart.

Both my Maundy Thursday sermon and my Easter sermon included lines that went something like, "God doesn't promise to do the same ol' thing. God promises to do a new thing." This is solidly biblical; the Bible is replete with this message. A couple verses that come to mind are from Isaiah 43:19 ("Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?") and Revelation 21:5 ("And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"). God doesn't say, "Watch this, I'll do the old thing, but better," or, "I'm going to keep doing what I've been doing, and hope for better results." No, God says, "I'm doing something new. Watch this!"

So what makes me think that I should live my own life saying things like, "I've always done it this way, and it works all right, so I'll keep at it." I know, I know, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. But sometimes, things are "broke," and we are just so used to it that we don't notice, or are just too tired to do anything about it.

I'll be honest, friends: I don't want to be too tired to fix it. I want to embrace the abundant life God envisions for me. If Lent was all about repentance, *metanoia*, turning a different way,

away from brokenness and toward the God of life... then Easter is all about living into that new thing that God is doing!

I'm sure your life is full of such opportunities to engage in something new. Whether it's a new job, or a new hobby, or rethinking an old, tired pattern that no longer brings you life, our lives are full of opportunities to see God's life-giving new thing come about.

We are also thinking about this as a congregation. Included in this newsletter, you will find five "Mission Milestones" our council prayerfully discerned, after considering who we really want to be as a congregation, the "best version of ourselves." We based them on the process we've been working through for almost a year, of telling our story, determining our "culture drivers" (things we do intuitively as a congregation), and assessing our assets (where are we already strong, and what assets do we lack?). With these milestones, we hope to play to our strengths, even as we strive to strengthen our weaker areas. Take a look, and let us know what you think. In the coming months, we will be developing strategic steps for each of these milestones, and would love your input.

And how about you? What new thing is God showing you in your life? Where is the Spirit urging you to step out in faith? What old story do you need to let go of, so that you can more fully embrace the abundant life God has in mind for you?

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

In Easter joy,
Pastor Johanna

Articles for the **June issue of the “Link”** must be received by 9:00am on Monday, May 16th. Please send them to Jenna at stpauls@stpaulspittsford.org.

Please submit any reports or articles in MS Word format for ease of inclusion in the full report or newsletter. *As always, do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or concerns.*



PASTORAL ACTS

No pastoral acts for April 2022

Lay Ministry – Sign up Today!

With the return of in-person worship, we are in need of lay ministers every Sunday. Find online sign-ups at www.tinyurl.com/StPaulsPittsfordSignUp

Sign up early and often!



The Church Calendar can be found online: www.stpaulspittsford.org

St. Paul’s is OPEN for Worship!

We will continue to hold our single service worship schedule, with service at 9:30 on Sunday. This service is livestreamed, and includes communion.

Masks and vaccination are recommended.

Livestream & In-person Service Attendance Statistics for April 2022

| Date | Unique Viewers | Est. actual total | In-person total |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| April 3 | 28 | 48 | 30 |
| April 10 (Palm Sunday) | 35 | 60 | 84 |
| April 14 (Maundy Thursday) | 9 | 15 | 33 |
| April 15 (Good Friday) | 15 | 26 | 46 |
| April 17 (Easter: 2 services) | 56 | 95 | 140 |
| April 24 | 29 | 49 | 31 |
| April totals | 172 | 293 | 364 |
| Avg per Sun. service | 37 | 63 | 71 |

“WE COUNT BECAUSE YOU COUNT”

Using 1.7 as a multiplier (most common multiplier used by churches to measure online attendance)

Safety Measures: We continue to encourage vaccination/booster and masks. We also have two air purifiers continuously running.

St. Paul’s Vision

To spread the Word, build a strong community, and make the world a better place.

Our Mission Statement

St. Paul’s is a welcoming Christian family. We are created by God, saved by Jesus Christ, God’s Son, and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Through joyous worship and Mission Commitment, St. Paul’s furthers the word of God’s Saving Grace.

In the May Link

| | |
|--------|--|
| Page 1 | From the Pastor |
| Page 2 | Church Office News Church Statistics |
| Page 3 | Planning Ahead Mission Milestones |
| Page 4 | Sponsor a Coffee Hour! First Communion Class New Member Class Seeking Nursery Attendant Moms Group Meet-Up Graduation |
| Page 5 | Dorcas Rachel Circle Seafarers International House |
| Page 6 | A Taste of St. Paul's Cookbook Spring Flower Sponsorship Quilting for a Cause |

Planning Ahead

Thursday, May 12th
Dorcas Rachel Circle Book Review
at 9:45am in the Dorcas Room

Monday, May 16th
Link Articles due
(Please email them to
stpauls@stpaulspittsford.org)

Wednesday, May 18th
Quilting for a Cause
at 10:00am in the Dorcas Room

Thursday, May 19th
Moms Group Gathering
6:30-8:30pm at St. Paul's, foyer

Do not miss out on our weekly emails! To be added to the list, please email Jenna at
stpauls@stpaulspittsford.org.

~ Mission Milestones ~

At our April retreat, the council decided on the following "Mission Milestones" as areas of focus in the coming years. We would love to be in conversation about these! Please share your thoughts with a council member.

1. Implement a program to grow our children's faith, service and values, to equip them for a life of faith.

Involve whole families and multiple generations in their faith formation, helping them to know and trust that the church is a safe and life-giving place, now and throughout their lives.

2. Build deeper and more meaningful relationships within the congregation.

After two years apart, let's get to know each other again, building friendship, dispelling loneliness and creating space for genuine connection.

3. Gain an understanding of the particular needs in our surrounding community to establish a more focused social ministry plan.

How can we effectively serve if we don't understand the needs? We hope to make connections with community leaders, and build with them relationships of mutuality.

4. Increase awareness of the ministry of St. Paul's.

Communicate within and beyond our congregation using the many tools and platforms available (e.g. social media, showing up in the community).

5. Understand the spiritual needs in our congregation, and develop a plan to meet them.

Create spaces for people to share and grow in their spiritual life, as individuals and as a community of faith.

Sponsor a Coffee Hour!



As we look toward life-after-pandemic, we are “resurrecting” our coffee hour tradition, asking groups or individuals to sponsor a coffee hour. We have many folks who have begun worshiping with us over the past two years who are eager to meet some people.

Sign up here:
www.tinyurl.com/StPaulsPittsfordSignUp

First Communion Class *May 22nd after worship*

We are holding a first communion class for kids who are ready to learn about this sacred and central part of our faith practice. If your child has been asking, they are ready to start learning about it.



Interested? Let Pastor Johanna know!

New Member Class

Considering joining St. Paul's? We will be holding a new members class this spring as a chance to meet people and learn about St. Paul's.

If you are interested, let Pastor Johanna know!

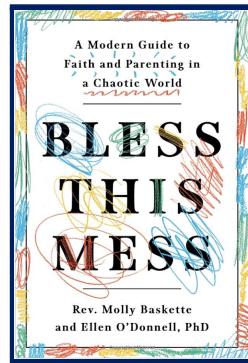
Now Hiring

We are looking for a Nursery Attendant to watch children in the nursery from 9-11am on Sundays. \$15/hr.



Moms Group Meet-up

May 19th @ 6:30pm in the foyer



Part monthly retreat, part book club, the St. Paul's Moms Group aims to serve and inspire mothers on their faith journey. In May, we'll discuss Chapter 4 of Bless This Mess (our book for the year), focusing on "How to Fight--and Forgive." You do not need to read the book to participate. Simply come for an evening of refreshments, tea, good conversation, friendship, and encouragement.

An option to join virtually is available. Email Andrea.Sauer@Live.com or PastorJohanna@stpaulspittsford.org for more information, or a link to join on Zoom.

GRADUATING this year?



Know of someone graduating? Let us know!

Please send the graduate's name and plans for after graduation so that we can acknowledge and celebrate their accomplishments in our June *Link*!

You can email them to Mara at mberndt49@gmail.com or Jenna at stpauls@stpaulspittsford.org by 5/13.

Dorcas Rachel Circle

Thursday, May 12th at 9:45am in the
Dorcas Room



May Book Review

The Book of Longings
by Sue Monk Kidd

9:45am: Fellowship
10:00am: Meeting
11:00am: Program - Book review
facilitated by
Pastor Johanna & Sandy Link

Hostesses:
Julie Huse and Shari MacFarlane

**Bring your paper good donations for
the Pittsford Food Cupboard**

Items needed:
paper towels, facial tissues,
toilet paper and napkins

As always..... all are welcome!

**Please RSVP to Leisa North via email
or phone**
By: Monday, May 9th
leisanorth@gmail.com

Seafarers International House



Seafarers International House is a social agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a ministry partner of the ELCA synods of Metro New York, New Jersey, New England, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna(PA) and Delaware-Maryland.

While its roots are decidedly Lutheran, Seafarers International House's mission clientele are multi-national and multi-faith. We offer pastoral care, hospitality, social assistance, advocacy, and prayer to all seafarers and immigrants without trepidation.

Women of the ELCA are knitting hats for Seafarers and sending them to the Seafarer's International House to be distributed ALL YEAR LONG!

Most of the recipients are men so darker colors are appreciated. The preferred yarn is Red Heart Super Saver or any worsted weight yarn- **NOT WOOL**.

There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall, you can also find pattern directions attached to the box!

If you have any questions please see Leisa North. Thanks!

A Taste of St. Paul's Cookbook



Cookbooks will be available in the foyer from
May 1st - May 8th.

The cookbooks were graciously put together
by many wonderful St. Paul's members.

Great gift idea! Please feel free to take as
many as you'd like to give as a gift. Just add a
bow and you're all set.

If you would like one after May 8th please
email Mara at mberndt49@gmail.com or
Jenna at stpauls@stpaulspittsford.org.

Spring Flower Sponsorship

Spring is in the air! Envelope Sponsorship for
Spring flowers are in the pews for you to fill
in and donate. If you like to donate on-line
you can go to St Paul's website, click on the
Online Donations button then select Flowers.
Please make sure you type in the box next to
it if your donation is in memory of someone
or in honor of someone along with their
names. You may take the flowers home after
the service.

If you have any questions,
please feel free to contact

Mara Berndt, mberndt49@gmail.com
or Leisa North, leisanorth@gmail.com.

Quilting for a Cause

*Wednesday, May 18th @ 10am in the
Dorcas Room.*

**If you have them: Bring a cutting mat,
rotary cutter, ruler, scissors, your favorite
large eye needle.**

The Women of St. Paul's have started a
quilting group! The purpose of the group is to
make quilts for LWR and other local
organization or individuals in need of a quilt.

All are welcome to join the group, no sewing
experience needed. We will be meeting
monthly during the day, but if we have
enough interest an evening group could be
easily started.

If you would like to contribute, here's how
you can:

Material Donations:

- Cotton and Flannel material- **washed and ironed**
- Material by the yard- **(nothing less than 1 yard, please)**. No material with Religious or American symbols
- **Crochet yarn**
- **Twin flat sheets or fabric for
backing- 64"x 84"**

Monetary donations:

- Checks can be made out to Dorcas
Rachel Circle. Memo line- Quilting
for a Cause

*****There will be a collection tote located in
the Dorcas Room.*****

If you would like to join or have any
questions please contact Leisa North at
leisanorth@gmail.com.