

The Link



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

June/July 2022

Pastor Page: What are your spiritual needs?

In May, our council continued working through identifying steps toward achieving our Mission Milestones (see page 3), but felt at a loss for how to approach #5: *Understand the spiritual needs in our congregation, and develop a plan to meet them.* I suggested that a step toward understanding the congregation's spiritual needs was first to understand our own! So, I assigned the council some homework: articulate your own personal spiritual needs, and come next month prepared to share.

In our effort to feed the spiritual needs of our congregation, I'd like to assign you the same. Where do you find your soul or heart thirsty? What do you long for? Where do you find God – or where would you like to?

Or, to start from a more concrete place, what sort of message in the sermon really speaks to you? What do you find yourself continuing to chew on for days to come? What part of worship is your favorite, and what is it about that part that makes it so important to you? Be as specific as you can!

Another entry into spiritual reflection: what troubles your faith? When I find myself riled up about something, or offended, it usually means I have some work to do there. So what raises your hackles? Now, try to name, as specifically as possible, why that thing gets your goat.

In fairness, I will offer you my own reflections on my spiritual needs:

My favorite part of worship is singing, because it makes me feel connected to other people (joining voices to create something beautiful for God), and to my own body. I love Lutheranism, but we are not great at using our bodies to praise God, except when we sing, and I love the feeling of bringing something more than my brain to faith. So there's my need: I need to discover and implement more ways to encounter/meet God more holistically. I tend to lead with my head, even in faith. But I need God in my body and heart centers as well.

I also adore serving communion to people, because it is another way our bodies are involved "with all five senses," as I recently taught to our first communion class. Plus, having the privilege of looking into the eyes of each of you, knowing some of your pains and struggles, and saying, "The body of Christ – and with it, the promise of God's love, grace, and forgiveness – is given for you." I sometimes imagine the conversations I have had with a person as I hand them the bread, praying that they will receive that morsel of grace specifically for the challenges that face them that day. (I have the best job in the world!)

One of my greatest heartbreaks is our inability to talk to people with different views. I love connecting with like-minded people, but what *I need* is a place to gather around a shared assumption that we are all in it to love our neighbor, and respectfully hear stories from people with a different perspective. I count this as a spiritual need because my spirit is daily broken by the lack of this in the world around me. And when spirits are broken, God has a place to enter.

I am stirred when a sermon opens scripture in a way that makes it come alive for me, and that makes concrete connections to the things that trouble me in my daily life. I know this is our sacred scripture, yet for many years it felt like something apart from the rest of my life. Sure, it had wonderful stories, and some great one-liners, but it also talked about strange places and customs that meant little to me, and to which I found little connection. When scripture becomes about real people, with real struggles like my own, then I feel the sense that the Bible is also for me, *today*.

How about you? I would love to hear not only from the council, but from all of you about your spiritual needs. Thank you for your partnership; I'm grateful to walk this journey with each of you.

In faith,
Pastor Johanna

Articles for the **August issue of the “Link”** must be received by 9:00am on Friday, July 15th. 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

May 29, 2022 - First Communion

Jocelyn Constance Meyn

Grace Victoria Rehbaum

Isaac Karl Rehbaum

Lay Ministry – Sign up Today!

We have plenty of ways for lay ministers to help lead Sunday worship.

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!

Our 9:30 Service of Holy Communion is live-streamed each week. **Masks and vaccination are recommended.**

During the summer months, we will also offer a once-monthly outdoor service, geared toward families. See page 6 for details.

Livestream & In-person Service Attendance Statistics for May 2022

Date	Unique Viewers	Est. actual total	In-person total
May 1	28	48	46
May 8	16	27	55
May 15	35	60	50
May 22	27	46	62
May 29	25	43	38
May totals	131	224	251
Avg per service	26	45	50

“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.

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

In the June/July Link

<u>Page 1</u>	<u>From the Pastor</u>
<u>Page 2</u>	Church Office News
	Church Statistics
<u>Page 3</u>	Planning Ahead
	<u>Mission Milestones</u>
<u>Page 4</u>	<u>Congratulations Graduates!</u>
<u>Page 5</u>	<u>Congratulations Confirmands!</u>
<u>Page 6</u>	Sponsor a Coffee Hour
	New Member Class
	Family Faith Night
	Outdoor Services
	VBS: Save the Date
<u>Page 7</u>	Dorcas Rachel Circle
	Moms Group Meet-Up
	<u>Seafarers International House</u>
<u>Page 8</u>	Quilting for a Cause
	Collection for Buffalo

Planning Ahead

June 4th-June 16th

Collection for Buffalo Community Fridge

Tuesday, June 7th

Blanket-making for graduates @ 10am

Thursday, June 9th

Dorcas Rachel Circle Luncheon @ 11am

Saturday, June 11th

Family Faith Night @ 4:30pm

Sunday, June 12th

New Member Class @ 11am

Monday, June 13th

Congregation Council Meeting @ 7pm

Wednesday, June 15thth

Quilting for a Cause @ 10am

Thursday, June 16th

Moms Group Gathering @ 6:30pm

Sunday, June 24th

Family-friendly Outdoor Worship @ 11am

Sunday, July 22nd

Family-friendly Outdoor Worship @ 11am

Monday-Thursday, August 15th - 18th

Vacation Bible School, mornings

~ 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.

Congratulations Graduates!



We are so proud of the young people in our congregation, and this year we are especially proud of those graduating from high school and college!

College Graduates:

Austin Ange graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelors of Architecture. He will soon begin working in his field in Charlotte, NC.

Kryslin Kane graduated summa cum laude from St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA with dual degrees in Marketing and Leadership Ethics and Organizational Sustainability. She received Presidential awards for academic excellence in both majors. Kryslin is living in St. Petersburg, FL working at Summit Creative Marketing as Digital Content Manager.

Matthew Coffey graduated from Binghamton University's Thomas J. Watson College of Engineering and Applied Science with a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He will be working at Erdman Anthony in Rochester as a Design Engineer.

High School Graduates:

Addie Canning is graduating from Pittsford Sutherland High School. She plans to attend the Eastman School of Music - University of Rochester and study Tuba Performance & International Relations.

Marcella Cincotta is graduating from Pittsford Mendon High School. She plans to attend Sarah Lawrence and study Theatre and Creative Writing.

Natalie Cincotta is graduating from Pittsford Mendon High School. She plans to attend Bryn Mawr College and study Art History.

Molly Collins is graduating from Pittsford Mendon High School. She plans to attend Potsdam University/Crane School of Music.

Claire Cunningham is graduating from Pittsford Mendon High School. She plans to attend Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory and study Music Education with Saxophone Primary.

Bobby Dodge is graduating from Pittsford Sutherland High School. He plans to attend Penn State Schreyer Honors College.

Congratulations Confirmands!



Reeve Cincotta is 14 years old and an 8th grader at Barker Road Middle School. He is good at performing, and math and science are his favorite subjects. When studying the Women of the Bible, he really found the Dorcas story to be interesting. He liked that it involved God's power intervening in resurrecting someone. Especially someone like Dorcas who spent her time doing works of charity. It is a good representation that doing good on earth grants us "everlasting life." One thing he learned during confirmation classes are the nuances of the Bible and its passages in better detail and also how the New Testament and Old Testament connect with each other. His best memories at Church are fun Father's Day events LYO hosted and Christmas Eve services. To help others, Reeve enjoyed being a WEB Leader at his school and helping new 6th graders feel welcome. A random fact about Reeve is he has a birthmark that looks like a vampire bite and is ambidextrous.



Alexander Gonzalez is 13 years old and an 8th grader at Barker Road Middle School. Alexander is good at drawing. His favorite Bible story is the Passion. One thing Alexander learned during confirmation classes is that Peter denies Jesus three times before the cock crows. His funniest memory at church is when children were hoarding expired oreos during class. To help others, Alexander will open a door for someone or enjoys doing something in general to help them. A random fact about Alexander is he has a dog.



Robert Samuelson was born in Boston, MA on July 1st, 2008. He lived in Woburn, MA until February 2010, when he moved to Pittsford, NY. Bobby is currently in 8th grade at Calkins Road Middle School. He has an older sister, Amelia, who is finishing her junior year at Sutherland High School; a dog named Max; two cats named Rex and Tobi; and a guinea pig named Santa. Bobby has been playing oboe since the 5th grade, and is a 2nd class-level boy scout. His hobbies include: playing BattleCats on his phone, Minecraft on his computer, and the game "I expect you to die" on his virtual reality headset. He also enjoys swimming, spending time with friends, playing board games and sharing his own story-telling game DemonTrail.

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*

New Member Class: June 12

Are you considering joining St. Paul's, or recently did and want to learn more? On June 12, we will gather to share stories and learn more about St. Paul's and what we are about. Current members are also welcome to attend - the more connections we can make, the better!

June 12, 11am-1pm

Family Faith Night

Saturday, June 11th at 4:30-6pm



Please join us for some family fun focused on the theme of creation!

Please let Pastor Johanna know if you will be attending.

Family Outdoor Services:

4th Sundays @ 11am

Our summer outdoor services geared toward families with young children will return this summer, back by popular demand!

While anyone is welcome to attend, these shorter communion services will feature paperless, easy-to-learn music, a more conversational sermon, and plenty of space to wiggle and make a joyful noise.

Bring your own chair or a blanket to sit on. We will gather on the lawn along Washington Ave.

Dates: June 26, July 24, August 28

(August 28th is VBS Sunday! - where the children will share about what they learned at Vacation Bible School)



VBS: Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School will be held August 15th - 18th. Mark your calendar! We need plenty of volunteers to make this cherished tradition happen. Stay tuned for ways you can be involved, as a week-of volunteer or as we prepare.

Dorcas Rachel Circle Luncheon

Thursday, June 9th at 11:00am
in the Dorcas Room

Please bring a dish to pass

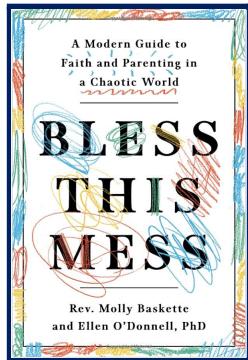
Hostesses: Marcia Sheldon, Carol Dobbins, & Leisa North; Devotions: Shari MacFarlane

We will take up a monetary collection to support the Pittsford Food Cupboard

Please RSVP to Leisa North
(leisanorth@gmail.com)
by Monday, June 6th

Moms Group Meet-up

June 16th @ 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. Join us as we review the wisdom of Chapter 5 in [Bless This Mess](#). You do not need to read the book to

participate. We'll be discussing MONEY + KIDS ... our values, spending, giving, needs vs. wants, allowance vs. no allowance, to name a few topics. We'll carve out a space for mothers to be nourished spiritually and literally (bubbly drinks, snacks!). Moms this is your time for friendship and encouragement. Please note we will not be meeting in July for a summer break.

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.

Seafarer's 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!

Quilting for a Cause

Wednesday, June 15th @ 10am in the Dorcas Room.

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

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!

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.

Collection for Buffalo Community Fridge

(a mutual aid organization)

The horrific shooting that recently occurred in Buffalo was devastating on many levels – one of which was that this Tops was the only food source in what was otherwise a food desert. Local volunteers have stepped up to provide food for this community while Tops remains closed. St. Paul's would like to help!

We are collecting grocery items between June 4 and June 16.

Non-perishables may be left outside in the blue bin anytime. Perishables may be left during office hours on Thursday, June 16, 9:30-4:00); please alert the office you have brought something, so we can put it in the fridge. You may also donate money, which we will use to purchase additional items before driving everything to Buffalo on the 18th. Donate through our Simply Giving page: click on "mission and benevolence" and put "Buffalo" in the notes, or put a check in the offering plate with the same memo.

Monetary donations must be received by June 16.

BCF gratefully accepts perishables as well as shelf stable and personal care items.

Items of need:

- Laundry supplies
- Diapers
- Household cleaning supplies
- Frozen meat (e.g. ground beef)
- Fruits and vegetables (fresh is fine!)
- Dairy products
- Toilet paper and paper towels