

The *LINK*

newsletter of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Pittsford, NY

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear People of St. Paul's,

By now I hope you have heard about our new ministry opportunity: St. Paul's has decided to accompany a refugee family! They are a family from the Congo, seeking asylum. I wanted to share with you more personally what this opportunity we are pursuing means to me.

One of the parts of my family history that always fascinated me was that my maternal grandparents lived in Germany for about 6 years. My grandfather, a pastor and history professor, worked there through the Lutheran Church after World War II, helping to rebuild the German Lutheran Church and reunite refugee families. While my grandpa was busy at his official work with the Church, my grandmother was welcoming refugees and dignitaries alike into their home, feeding them, hearing their stories, and loving them.

Though I don't have any direct experience working with refugees, I consider my grandparents' particular experience to be a part of my make-up, because it was such a formative part of my mom's and then my own upbringing. In fact, many of my Johnson family and now my Rehbaum family traditions were begun during my grandparents' time in Germany. This family legacy is part of what drove me to become a Young Adult in Global Mission through the ELCA, serving a year in Slovakia. I wanted to explore the ministry of accompaniment in this global setting, like my grandparents – hearing people's stories, loving them, and walking alongside them.

Though my time in Slovakia was formative in important ways, I have long had a particular yearning to get more involved in helping refugees. Every time I hear a presentation, or meet someone who does this work, or read again the words throughout scripture that say, in various ways, "Welcome the stranger..." I feel that familiar tug again. I can't say what has been my hold up all these years. Fear of the language barrier, perhaps, or lack of understanding of the situations that force people to leave their homes, or the demands of my own life as pastor, wife, and mother. But I've kept the possibility in mind, hoping someday to pursue it.

Imagine my delight, then, when I mentioned St. Paul's getting involved in such a ministry to our delegates at Synod Assembly, and they responded with enthusiasm. And my further delight when I put it on the table at council and there was immediate interest and action. And my joy when Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services came to talk to interested members about it, and I could feel the energy and interest in the room. When the council decided at our meeting the next day that we would, indeed, accompany a refugee family, I felt like a long-held dream was finally coming true.

God has been watering this seed in my heart for a long time, and I am so thrilled St. Paul's has seized the opportunity and will be accompanying this family. God knows what form it will take, and how God will use us to minister to this family. I'm along for the ride, with eyes and heart wide open, to receive whatever God is to put in our laps on this journey.

I hope you will consider being involved in some way. Several options are laid out later in this newsletter. God is using us, people of St. Paul's, and I can't wait to see how!

In faith,

Pastor Johanna

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Planning Ahead

Saturday, October 1st
Mortgage payoff celebration
@ 3:30pm (dinner @ 5:30pm)

Thursday, October 13th
Dorcas Rachel Women @ 10:45am

Friday, October 14th
Donations due for Loop Clothing
(and more) Collection

Wednesday, October 19th
Quilting for a Cause @ 10am

Thursday, October 20th
Moms Group @ 6:30PM
Panera Bread in Penfield

Saturday, October 22nd
Family Promise Night Without a Bed

Church News & Statistics

PASTORAL ACTS IN SEPTEMBER

September 20, 2022 - Funeral

Lorraine Joy Green

LAY MINISTRY CALENDAR IS RETURNING!

With the return to more normalcy after the pandemic, the volunteer calendar is returning in November!

If you are a current volunteer, please keep a lookout in your email in October.

If you have any preferred dates you would like to volunteer (or any dates you cannot volunteer), please let our office know at stpauls@stpaulspittsford.org!

We would love new volunteers! Please reach out and we can coordinate training!

ST. PAUL'S SUNDAY WORSHIP!

Our 9:30am Service of Holy Communion is in person & live-streamed each week.

SAFETY MEASURES:

We continue to encourage vaccination/booster. We also have two air purifiers continuously running.



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

Livestream & In-person Service Attendance Statistics

"WE COUNT BECAUSE YOU COUNT"

Using 1.7 as a multiplier

(most common multiplier used by churches to measure online attendance)

September:

Date	Unique Viewers	Est. Viewers Total	In Person Total
9/4	28	48	45
9/11	16	27	9:30 = 10 Picnic = 50 Total = 60
9/18	21	36	48
9/25	20	34	44
Totals	85	145	197
Avg per Service	21	36	49



CANDLES AVAILABLE!

We are seeking homes for many leftover, partially burned candles that have been used for services at St. Paul's. All different types, sizes and colors available! Candles will be in the main foyer; take as many as you need!

VASES NEEDED

We are in need of vases 5-9" tall with a base 3-6". We use these to deliver Sunday flower arrangements to our homebound members. If you have some unneeded vases lying around, bring them over and place them in the bin labeled "Flower Vase Donation" in the foyer.

Upcoming Events

DORCAS RACHEL WOMEN

Thursday, October 13, 2022

10:45am- Fellowship

11:00am- Bible Study

12:00pm- Meeting

"Gather" Bible study facilitated by Pr. Johanna:
"Jesus and nature: Teachers of Faith"
(Session 2- Soil)

Hostesses: Carol Dobbins & Marcia Sheldon

Bring your paper good donations for the
Pittsford Food Cupboard!

Items needed: paper towels, facial tissue, toilet
paper & napkins

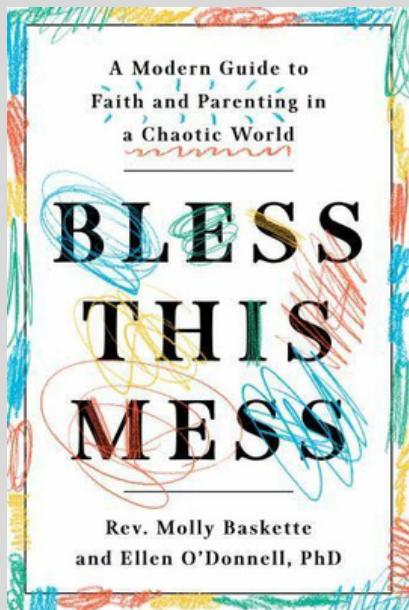
As always..... all are welcome!

Please RSVP to Leisa North by October 10th @
4pm. leisanorth@gmail.com

ST. PAUL'S MOMS GROUP MEET-UP

**Thursday, October 20th at 6:30PM
at Panera Bread in Penfield**

We'll catch up with each other's lives and
discuss "Sabbath: How to Make Every Day
Holy" from Chapter 7 of [Bless This Mess](#).
You do not need to have read the book to
attend. All mothers are welcome for this
time of fellowship and inspiration. Join us!



Celebrate paying off our Mortgage!

Activities, dinner, bonfire S'mores, and mortgage
burning ceremony

October 1, 2022

3:30-7:30pm at St. Paul's
Dinner at 5:30pm

S'mortgage Burning Octoberfest Party!

Quilting for a Cause

Wednesday, October 19th at 10am, Dorcas Room

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

We make quilts for LWR and other local organizations or
individuals in need of a quilt. All are welcome to join the group,
no sewing experience needed.

If you would like to contribute:

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"

There is a collection tote located in the Dorcas Room.

Monetary donations:

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

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

New Members

St. Paul's is welcoming new members this month!

Learn about them here, and make sure to introduce yourself when you get a chance.

Don & Amy Barber

Don and Amy Barber are Walworth, NY residents. Originally from St. Paul, MN area, they initially joined Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Webster. During 2020-2021, they searched for the right combination of liturgical and expositional churches and found both at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Don is a data base engineer for Anjou software company and Amy is a senior planning supervisor for L3 Harris. Hobbies include bicycling, reading, quilting, and RV camping.

Fred Haynes

Fred came to St. Paul's through his wife, Theo Haynes, who is active at St. Paul's. They were drawn to Rochester by the younger Haynes family (Jeff and Holley). Fred is interested in discussing the Bible and singing in the choir. He also goes to Scottish country dancing, and is enthusiastic about nature and science.

Richard & Lois Johnson

The Johnsons lived in Grass Valley, CA (northern) for nearly 40 years, where Dick was a Lutheran pastor, before moving to Rochester last year to be near to family. Lois is a retired kindergarten teacher, and loves to sing, quilt, and play with her grandkids.

Dick is also a professor of church history, and loves singing, the NYT crossword puzzle, and genealogy.

Thomas & Emily Sauke

Thomas and Emily Sauke were married at St. Paul's in August, 2021. Thomas comes from a Lutheran background, having grown up at Messiah Lutheran in Greece, and Emily is looking forward to learning more about the Lutheran expression of faith. They live in Victor, and are looking forward to St. Paul's being a part of their new life together.

David & Nadine Wolfe

Dave and Nadine moved to Pittsford last year from State College, PA to be closer to their family: a son in Pittsford and a son in NH. They were members of Grace Lutheran Church in State College. They have attended Christmas Eve and other services at St. Paul's when visiting and enjoyed the service and friendliness of the congregation. Dave is a retired hematologist/oncologist and enjoys reading, fly fishing and cooking. Nadine is a retired RN and enjoys knitting, reading, baking and playing with the grandchildren.

Mission & Service

St. Paul's is Accompanying a Refugee Family!

After praying and deliberating and seeking more information, St. Paul's has decided to accompany a family, through [Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services](#). (You will soon receive a letter describing this in more detail). This responsibility is more about relationship than money; our role is simply to walk with this family to help them acclimate to their new life in America. Here are some ways you can be involved:

- Pray! One of the most powerful and important ways to help this family is simply to pray for their success, safety, and well-being.
- Be on a rotation to "check in" with the family, committing to spend time with them on a regular basis. This is the work of relationship, and includes getting to know the family and listening to them and what they have to offer. It might involve visiting their home, sharing a meal together, going on an outing, tutoring kids, etc. This may be a once monthly or so commitment, depending on your availability.
- Be "on call" to help with things like giving rides, networking to get them connected to the community, doing minor house repairs, etc.

The ELCA's definition of mission is "accompaniment." It is the most important way we can live out the Gospel and spread the good news. We hope you will prayerfully consider how you might help accompany this family in these coming months, as we pursue this ministry of welcome and hospitality.

Read more about the ELCA's understanding of accompaniment [HERE](#), or here:
<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Global-Mission#Accompaniment>.

Those who want to volunteer in the capacity of building relationships are encouraged to attend a Bible study on the concept of accompaniment. Stay tuned for dates and times.



College Care Packages are back!

St. Paul's will send care packages to college and graduate students in November and April with goodies to help during the exam week.



To receive a care package:

Please provide name of student with address to their school

To contribute:

- Donate an item for the care packages
 - Monetary donation
- Volunteer your time to help package the boxes

Please contact

Mara Berndt at mberndt49@gmail.com
or Leisa North at leisanorth@gmail.com
for details.

Community Involvement

Family Promise of Greater Rochester (formerly RAIHN) Updates



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As an individual or with your family, neighbors, book club, friend, or youth group, mark your calendar for an awareness building and fundraising event to remember.

In just 4 stops along East Avenue, participate in FPGROC's poverty simulation - get a glimpse into what it takes to access necessary human services in Monroe County.

With your group or on your own, stay the night on your couch or in a car, or pitch a tent in your backyard. Reflect on your experience while spending the **Night Without a Bed**.

Event includes peer-to-peer online fundraising opportunity to support families facing homelessness, take-home kit with additional activities and reflection guide, FPGROC pillowcase, and more! Requested donation \$5/person, minimum. Learn more at www.fpgroc.org/nightwithoutabed.

St. Paul's has been a support congregation for Family Promise of Greater Rochester (formerly RAIHN) since 2009. We have provided meals, holiday gifts, companionship, funds, camp scholarships, household goods, our time, talents and treasure to support families experiencing homelessness. This organization continues to have an impact in our community, keeping families housed and providing support and hospitality to those who need it. There are still lots of ways to be involved as a congregation or an individual!

- On October 22 FPGROC will host Night Without a Bed, complete with in-person poverty simulation and optional peer-to-peer fundraising. Participants will sleep in their car, on a couch, or in their own backyard after gathering to learn together. Individuals, families, youth groups, and groups of adults are welcome! Learn more & register at www.fpgroc.org/nightwithoutabed. Contact Jen Canning, jennifer.canning@urgrad.rochester.edu or beth@fpgroc.org with any questions.

FPGROC is looking for painters, builders, cleaners, and more! People are needed in early October to help with a children's playroom makeover, which involves painting and shelf building. Please contact Jen ASAP if you are interested! Visit the [Volunteer Jobs](#) website to sign up for other ongoing opportunities.

Your contributions of various items are needed. The [In Kind Donations](#) web page shows an up-to-date list of new and used items requested, from appliances to laundry detergent to bus tickets. This list changes regularly, so check back often! And watch for a special collection soon to go along with the children's playroom makeover (funds and donations will be needed).

If you would like to get involved, please reach out to Jen at jennifer.canning@urgrad.rochester.edu. Stay tuned for information about an upcoming presentation, "Housing is a Human Right," and more ways to be involved to support families in achieving sustainable independence, keeping them together and getting them home for good.

Community Involvement



Loop Ministries Fundraiser Clothes (and More) collection

Please bring donations by Friday, October 14th

[Loop Ministries Urban Food Pantry](#) is having a fundraiser in conjunction with Savers ThriftStore in Webster. Any donation of the items below will be delivered by Loop to Savers on Saturday, October 15th.

Savers will pay 20¢ per pound to Loop for these items.

You can leave items at St. Paul's in the closet just inside the Washington Street entrance. You may also contact Theo Haynes as she will gladly pickup items from your home (404-312-6216 or haynes.theo@gmail.com).

Thank you for all your contributions, donations, and support for Loop's food pantry, now located at the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word for distribution to people in 5 center city zip codes.

Items being collected:

Any dry goods, such as Clothes (men, women, children), Hats, Mittens/Gloves, Scarves, Ties, Shoes, Socks, Purses, Wallets, Bags, Bed/bath towels, Sheets, Blankets, Pillows, Curtains, Tablecloths

Penny Pincher Sale

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
21 CHURCH ST, PITTSFORD
(Parking Lot on Locust St.)

Thursday, October 6, 9AM – 5 PM
Friday, October 7, ½ Price Sale, 9 AM – Noon
\$2 Bag Sale, 12:15 – 1:30
(Regular Grocery reusable, or brown bag)

Household, kitchen, appliances, books, crafts, toys, games, office, jewelry, tools, garden, holiday, linens, media, antiques, collectibles, furniture, bikes, sports items, dishes, glassware, linens, small electronics, baby items. SALE IS LOADED!

BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

KINDNESS ROCKS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022
2:00 - 4:00 PM
FISHER MEETING ROOM
PITTSFORD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Come paint Kindness Rocks and share information on bullying prevention. Bring your own rocks, and we will have extras to paint too!

Sponsored by Pittsford CommUNITY.

Pittsford CommUNITY is a non-profit 501(c)3 that brings together neighbors to promote inclusion, foster a sense of belonging, and build connections in Pittsford.

pittsfordcommUNITY.org

Community Involvement

Seafarer's International House



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.

Some Ways to Serve the Community

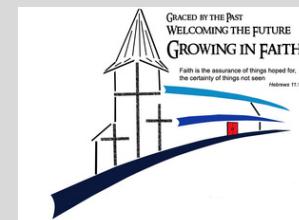
A couple of our ministry partners have reached out in need of volunteers. Consider serving in one of these ways:

Elderberry Express needs volunteer drivers to help elderly people get to appointments, etc.

Contact: 585-248-6237 or elderberryexpress@gmail.com

Mothers in Need of Others needs volunteers MWF, 10am-12pm to sort donations of baby items for mothers in need. Note: children can help here!

Contact: MothersInNeedOfOthers@gmail.com



ST. PAUL'S VISION STATEMENT

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

ST. PAUL'S 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.

Articles for the **October issue of the "Link"** must be received by 9:00am on Monday, October 17th. Please send them to the church office at stpauls@stpaulspittsford.org. Please make submissions in MS Word format.