

The Link



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2021

Pastor Page:

Dear People of St. Paul's,

At our annual picnic this year, we included some time for discussion about some of the work the council and others have been doing toward telling our St. Paul's story, figuring out what defines and drives our church culture, and how we can lean into our story and identity with more intention. The council came up with three "culture drivers" we wanted to focus on, and our discussion was around three key questions. I include them here for your further discussion, and would be delighted to hear from you about your thoughts on them!

We are a congregation who values our children and youth and their contributions.

One casualty during the pandemic has been Sunday School and faith formation as we knew it. Truth is, with all the other demands of life, it wasn't really working that well for us even before. If how we did Sunday School before were to die, what might be resurrected in its place? Consider these possibilities:

- What would it look like to equip parents to do more faith formation at home?
- What would be some benefits of cross-generational faith formation, and how might that look?
- What are some ways we could support our members in every step of their journey of faith from faith to adulthood, keeping the promise we make at the font to "nurture them in faith and prayer"?

We are a congregation who welcomes and accepts people, no matter what their background or questions might be.

The pandemic has placed barriers to getting people in the door, but simultaneously opened a whole new avenue to reach people online. Yet in a time when people need hope, grace, and spiritual support more than ever, something still keeps people from engaging. Why do you think that is? Whom could you ask? What would communicate to the community (on Sunday mornings, throughout the week, in our physical space...) that this is a place where people can bring their beauty, baggage, and brokenness, and find love and grace?

We are a generous congregation of eager servants.

For God's Work, Our Hands, we collected funds for Loop (feeding local people), Saints' Place (aiding refugees, currently esp. from Afghanistan), and Lutheran Disaster Relief (direct aid, especially related to climate change).

- Which of these three issues (feeding people, refugees, climate change) most excites you, and why?
- Is there another issue or concern that is heavy on your heart? (e.g. racism, children and/or education, mental health, LGBTQ issues, housing...)
- What issue would you say St. Paul's is most passionate about as a whole, and what makes you say that?

Email me your thoughts (pastorjohanna@stpaulspittsford.org) and we'll keep them in mind as we move forward!

Yours in hope,
Pastor Johanna

From the Church Office

Articles for the **November issue of the "Link"** must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 15th.

We will continue to use Sign-up Genius for **Lay Ministry volunteering** and other opportunities, including **flower sponsorship**. See: www.tinyurl.com/StPaulsPittsfordSignUp
If you are having trouble accessing any sign-up page, please email michelle@stpaulspittsford.org for assistance.

The church office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. The church foyer is open on Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m.

Pastor Johanna is generally available 9am-3pm, Monday-Thursday, and always on these days by appointment. Please email her at pastorjohanna@stpaulspittsford.org to connect, or call 585-270-0712.

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



PASTORAL ACTS

- Burial for **Debra Payne** (Shirley Sousa's daughter) (Aug 7, d. 2018)
- Baptisms: **Juliette McKay** (Janynne Russo's granddaughter) (Aug. 22) and **Charles Otto Minks** (Aug 29)
- Wedding: **Thomas and Emily** (Heiler) **Saucke** (Aug 28)
- First communion: **Owen Rupp** and **Aaron Casper** (Aug 22), **Jackson Vasile** (Aug 29), and **Max Graupman** (Sept 5).

In the October Link

Page 1	Pastor's Page
Page 2	From the Church Office Lay Ministry Sign-up
Page 3	Council Notes Service Stats Worship
Page 4	Dorcas Rachel – 10/14 Quilting for a Cause
Page 5	Mentors Needed Children's Interfaith Weekend Annual September Gathering

Lay Ministry – Sign up Today!

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

Lector – read the day's appointed scripture

Prayers – read the day's prayers of intercession

Usher – help people check in for each service, count and record attendance, take offering

Coffee hour – provide, set up, and clean up a small, outdoor coffee hour.

Communion assistant – hold tray of pre-filled cups and say, "blood of Christ, shed for you."

Communion set-up and clean up – prepare the sacrament before and clean up afterward (training available)

Flower delivery – if flowers are sponsored and donated, this person delivers them to a shut-in

Sign up early and often!

The Congregation Council met most recently on September 20th.

For the bulk of the meeting, we discussed congregational responses to the priorities posed at the September 19 church picnic. To recap, these are the priorities identified by the Church Council:

- Children & Youth
- Social Ministry
- Welcoming Community

Congregants were asked to flesh out these priorities (see questions discussed in the Pastor Page), and how we can be more intentional about them, by answering some questions in small groups. At the Council meeting, we talked about these, and agreed to prayerfully consider how we can take the next step, which is identifying assets and resources we have that we can use to make progress toward our Vision.

Here are some other updates:

- The Finance Committee is re-forming. If you would like to help manage the financial resources of St. Paul's, please consider becoming a part of this important committee. Financial/accounting experience is welcomed, but not required. Contact treasurer Mike Servé (michael.serve@rit.edu) or financial secretary Laurie Zaucha (lauriezaucha@yahoo.com) if you're interested.
- St. Paul's annual Stewardship campaign will be getting underway soon. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help with that.

The Council asks for your prayers as we work to discern the Vision for St. Paul's, and as we enter our budget season.

*Respectfully submitted by Sue Wyatt,
Council President*

~~~~~

## **St. Paul's is OPEN for Worship!**

We have resumed our usual single service worship schedule, 9:30 on Sunday. This service will be livestreamed, and includes communion. Due to the danger posed by the Delta variant, the resurgence we are seeing all over the country, and the reality that even vaccinated people can still both be infected and spread the disease, we have **resumed wearing masks in worship.**

*Safety Measures: We continue to require a sign-in so that we can contact trace, and we strongly encourage masks. We will continue opening all the windows as long as weather allows, and have two air purifiers continuously running.*

### *Livestream Service Attendance Statistics for September 2021*

| Date            | Unique Viewers | Est. actual total | In-person total |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sept 5          | 34             | 58                | 38              |
| Sept 12         | 26             | 44                | 37              |
| Sept 19 picnic  | 25             | 43                | 60              |
| Sept 26         | 34             | 58                | 34              |
| Sept totals     | 85             | 145               | 169             |
| Avg per service | -              | 36                | 42              |

*Changed multiplier from 1.8 to 1.7 (this is the most common multiplier used by churches to measure online attendance)*

*Note: We continue to show increases in in-person attendance. We are still trying to find our rhythm for recording attendance at our in-person services. If you are interested in ushering at a Sunday service, please sign up via the lay ministry sign-up sheet [HERE](#) or on our website [www.stpaulspittsford.org](http://www.stpaulspittsford.org)*

# Dorcas Rachel Circle

Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021



**Time:** 9:45am - Fellowship  
10:00am - Meeting  
10:20am - Bible Study

**Place:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**Program:** Bible study facilitated by  
Pastor Johanna  
"The gift of the Spirit: A divine wild  
goose chase"

**Session 2:** Breath of God, reviver and  
reformer

**Hostesses:** Julie Huse & Jean  
Comstock

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

**Items needed:** paper towels, facial  
tissue, toilet paper and napkins

All are welcome!

Please RSVP to Leisa North via email  
or phone by:

Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> by 4pm.  
[leisanorth@gmail.com](mailto:leisanorth@gmail.com)



## Quilting for a Cause

St. Paul's now has 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. Our goal is to complete 5 quilts on 2021!

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

Please contact Leisa North:

[leisanorth@gmail.com](mailto:leisanorth@gmail.com)

Other ways 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"
- Monetary donations – Checks can be made out to Dorcas Rachel Circle or given online:  
Memo line- Quilting for a Cause

Please stay tuned to our weekly emails to find out more about when our next quilting gathering will take place.

**\*\*There will be a collection tote located in the Fellowship Hall for donations\*\***

## In Search of: *Confirmation/Youth Mentors*

Research shows that the more meaningful relationships youth have with adults in their congregation, the more likely they are to stay connected to a church into adulthood. That is why one of our confirmation requirements is for the students to have a mentor: an adult in the congregation who accompanies them through the program, prays for them, builds a relationship with them, and ultimately helps them with their capstone project and is present at their confirmation.

***We are seeking adults (18+) who are willing to serve in this role for our youth.*** The plan is to have a group of people to choose from, and each year, we will match them with a current student. We will have more mentors than students, so you won't have a mentee every year. Training is provided. If you would be interested in this important ministry, please contact Pastor Johanna:  
[pastorjohanna@stpaulspittsford.org](mailto:pastorjohanna@stpaulspittsford.org).

~ ~ ~

## ***Children's Interfaith Weekend: October 15-17<sup>th</sup>***

The Children's Interfaith Weekend is celebrated on the third weekend of October each year. It is an opportunity to pray, learn about, and act on the troubles facing children in our community.

*The Children's Agenda's Interfaith Collaborative is a diverse group of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and other faith communities throughout Monroe County dedicated to advocating for the changes children need most throughout the year.*

For more information, [click here](#).

Link to: [The Children's Agenda Interfaith Collaboration](#)

## St. Paul's Annual Picnic

This year's annual gathering was held in Genesee Valley Park on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> as a service of Holy Communion with a picnic. Nearly 75 people joined us for joyous worship and fellowship time together. Even the choir was there to lead us in song. Thank you to all who helped make it happen - for those who came and those who watched from home!

Click the image below  
(or go to *St. Paul's Facebook page:*  
<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsPittsford>)  
for a link to a recording of this year's  
annual gathering.



[\(Link to view more pictures\)](#)