

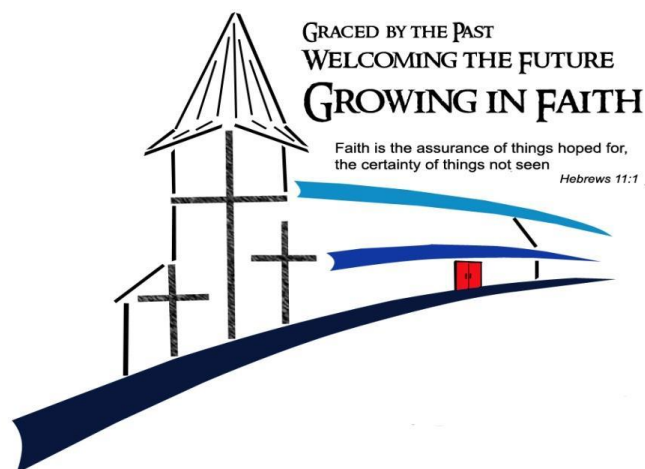
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pittsford, New York

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pittsford, New York

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.

We are inspired by the word of Matthew 25,
Verse 40: "Truly, I tell you, just as you did
it to the least of these who are members
of my family, you did it to me."

Pastor's Report

Grace to you and peace, good people of St. Paul's!

This year in my personal gratitude practice, I have regularly given thanks for you and for our leaders. I am continually inspired by you and your kindness and faithfulness, for your support of our staff, for the ways you live your faith in daily life. Our leaders – both those elected to council and the many who lead in other ways – are faithful, diligent, thoughtful and deeply caring. I could not be prouder to be your pastor!

Together, we have accomplished some remarkable things this year:

We installed new, professional livestream equipment, allowing us many more capabilities that make worship come alive for our congregation members who continue to worship remotely. With the addition in 2023 of a paid “livestream coordinator” position (to be held by Scott Conderman), I’m hopeful our reach will increase even further. Thank you to Scott, as well as the Wyatts, for the countless volunteer hours they have put into developing the livestream and making it so engaging!



We paid off our mortgage! This, in itself, is fantastic news that puts us in a healthy position financially, but it was also an occasion that warranted our first big social gathering since 2020. We shared much laughter, conversation, love and food at our Oktoberfest, and many remarked that it felt like the best of “the old St. Paul’s.” My daughter keeps asking me when we will roast [mortgage-smoked] marshmallows in the parking lot again.



We have continued work on our strategic planning. Please read some highlights and personal testimonies on the next page.

As always, St. Paul’s has both lost and gained some members, the former through death and relocation, and the latter through baptisms and affirmation of faith. We received 13 new members, who have already engaged in the life of the congregation in various ways. We confirmed three young men, and nine kids received their first communion. You can see all those names and dates on page 7 of this report.

Finally, I want to express my deep appreciation for our wonderful and devoted staff. While we were very sad to bid

farewell to Michelle Josephson in the office in March, our new office administrator, Jenna Meyn, has ably stepped into the role, learning the job quickly and with dedication and good humor. She and her family also joined as members, and have enriched us by their regular worship attendance. Kathie Mariano began as an interim bookkeeper, but she enjoyed it, and we enjoyed her, so much that she has become permanent, and has been invaluable in cleaning up the tracking of our finances. I daily appreciate our sexton, Tim Carder's, attention to both cleaning and repair needs. Jonathan Madden, our music director, continues to proclaim the Word weekly from the organ and piano benches, delighting us with his thoughtful preparation. Finally, we added a nursery attendant, Amelia Samuelson, who keeps the increasing number of kids present on Sundays busy and engaged with thematic art projects and games during the sermon.



I look forward to how we will participate in God's mission in Pittsford and beyond in the year to come. The Holy Spirit is moving among us – thanks be to God!

In hope and faith,
Pastor Johanna Rehbaum

Congregation Council President Report

As we reflect on 2022, it is clear how determined and resilient our congregation is at St. Paul's. Even as the year started with yet another strain of COVID interrupting our lives, we pushed through and built upon the great work that was done in the previous years. Utilizing our new livestream capabilities and continuing to stay on top of safety protocols, we were able to have the flexibility of both on-line and in-person worship, with staff, volunteers and congregation members working together, with the goal of getting back together more regularly for both worship and fellowship.

At our annual Council retreat in April, we continued our work on building out St. Paul's story and the culture drivers that support St. Paul's mission. Our culture drivers are areas that our congregation are already doing intuitively and are central to who we are and the culture we are part of. By looking more closely at our culture drivers: ***We are generous, eager to serve others and our community; we value children and youth, and their contributions to our congregation; and we are welcoming, accepting, and non-judgmental***, we worked to build out actions and activities that help us to live with more intention and build upon the values that are important to us as we faithfully carry out St. Paul's mission. We developed five (5) Mission Milestones to guide us:

- 1. Implement a program to grow our children's faith, service, and values, to equip them for a life of faith.**
- 2. Build deeper and more meaningful relationships within the congregation.**
- 3. Gain an understanding of the needs in our surrounding community to establish a more focused social ministry plan.**
- 4. Increase awareness of the ministry of St. Paul's.**
- 5. Understand the spiritual needs in our congregation and develop a plan to fill them.**

Throughout the year, and for the coming year, the Council will continue to develop and take strategic steps that can help us to achieve our mission. One notable step that we took in 2022 was to focus on a mission centered on the Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services (RRRS), where we are accompanying refugee families to assist and teach them how to navigate and build a new life for their family in Rochester. Thanks for all who have given their time and talents to this inspiring and humbling mission, and we look forward to continuing our work with RRRS this year.

Speaking of milestones and fellowship...A major milestone for our church this past year was in paying off our mortgage in February 2022 and to celebrate, we held a S'Mortgage Burning Party in the Fall! It was a night of celebration with a wonderful evening of learning the history of St. Paul's, enjoying a delicious German dinner, playing trivia, voting in a stein competition, and ending with the bonfire and s'mores!

As we head into 2023, Ann Menendez will be taking on the position of Council President – thank you Ann! With a strong and faithful Council continuing into the new year, we are well equipped to continue to grow in service. A special shout out of appreciation also goes out to all our wonderful and dedicated church staff - Pastor Johanna, Jon Madden, Tim Carder, Jenna Meyn and Kathleen Mariano – thank you for all you do each day to make this church as wonderful as it is! Also thank you to all our lay volunteers – each and every week – who are making our worship, fellowship and ministries a success!



Best wishes to all for 2023 and God Bless!
Jennifer Olivo, Congregation Council President

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Pittsford Annual Meeting Minutes January 30, 2022

- The annual meeting was held via Zoom following the 9:30 a.m. service. Michelle Josephson verified that a quorum was attained.
- Pastor led the congregation in prayer.
- Council President Sue Wyatt explained the Roberts Rules of Order for the meeting.
- Pastor presented a slide show of highlights of 2021 in our congregation.
- Sue Wyatt gave the President's report.
- The minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were approved.
- The following St. Paul's members were nominated to be members of the Congregational Council and were unanimously approved by the Congregation:
Jim Berndt
Sandy Hamm
- The following members were nominated to be our delegates to the 2022 Synod Assembly and were unanimously approved by the Congregation: Devin Rosenbauer and Sue Comer.
- Mike Serve and Laurie Zaucha presented the financial results for 2021 and the proposed budget for 2022. Laurie advised that St. Paul's would pay the balance due on its mortgage in early, 2022. This will save the interest costs on the mortgage, which exceed the income earned on the funds that will be used to pay the mortgage.
- The 2022 budget was approved as presented.
- The Congregation adopted a resolution approving the actions and proceedings of the Congregational Council in 2021.
- The Congregation extended its deep appreciation to Sue Wyatt and the other members of the Congregational Counsel who are completing their terms.

PASTORAL ACTS & STATISTICS – 2022

(* denotes member)

Active Membership (12/31/22): 264

Active members are those that have received communion at least once during the year and have made a contribution of record (includes children in member households).

First Communion:

5/29/22	Jocelyn Constance Meyn*
	Grace Victoria Rehbaum*
	Isaac Karl Rehbaum*
6/5/22	Eleanor Bentley DeLorenze*
	Emilia Nicks Foster*
	Vivienne Mercedes Rosenbauer*
	Finnegan John Sauer
	Otto Philip Sauer
6/12/22	Emma Jane Vasile*

Confirmations:

6/19/22	Reeve Xavier Cincotta*
	Alexander Peter Gonzalez*
	Robert Vaughn Samuelson*

Weddings:

6/25/22	Olivia Derleth & Sam Eaton
8/6/22	Terrance & Kristi Kelley

Baptisms:

7/16/22	Bowie Alton Dahlson
7/17/22	Elena Riho Servé
	Eliana Rio Servé
8/7/22	Madelyn Cadence Meyn*

Funerals:

8/6/22	Shirley Sousa* (Burial 8/2/22)
9/20/22	Lorraine Joy Green (Burial 9/20/22)

New Members (11 adults, 2 children):

8/7/22	Gregory, Jenna, <i>Jocelyn, Madelyn Meyn</i>
10/30/22	David & Nadine Wolfe
10/30/22	Richard & Lois Johnson
10/30/22	Don & Amy Barber
10/30/22	Thomas & Emily Saucke
10/30/22	Fred Haynes

Membership Transfers:

5/18/22 Harlan & Barbara Granger

Average Sunday Attendance

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	110	121	76 (in-person)	83 (online)	63 (online) 25 (in-person)
February	103	96	87 (in-person)	84 (online)	57 (online) 49 (in-person)
March	102	94	222 (online) 75 (in-person)	144 (online)	55 (online) 43 (in-person)
April	107	152	306 (online)	138 (online)	63 (online) 71 (in-person)
May	106	88	190 (online)	97 (online)	45 (online) 50 (in-person)
June	101	81	158 (online)	97 (online)	46 (online) 52 (in-person)
July	68	68	135 (online)	66 (online)	35 (online) 39 (in-person)
August	81	76	111 (online)	44 (online)	46 (online) 44 (in-person)
September	82	86	109 (online)	36 (online) 42 (in-person)	36 (online) 49 (in-person)
October	107	92	124 (online)	58 (online) 36 (in-person)	43 (online) 57 (in-person)
November	87	83	142 (online)	58 (online) 48 (in-person)	44 (online) 63 (in-person)
December	96	88	211 (online)	59 (online) 47 (in-person)	52 (online) 82 (in-person)
Yearly Average	96	94	171 (online) 79 (in-person)	80 (online) 43 (in-person)	49 (online) 52 (in-person)

Special Services

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ash Wednesday	33	37	43	N/A	15 (online) 33 (in-person)
Maundy Thursday	33	35	92 (online)	74 (online)	15 (online) 33 (in-person)
Good Friday	39	54	130 (online)	58 (online)	26 (online) 46 (in-person)
Easter Sunday	232	260	398 (online)	265 (online)	95 (online) 140 (in-person)
Confirmation	109 (May)	89 (June)	N/A	61 (online) 73 (in-person) (November)	49 (online) 60 (in-person) (June)
Christmas Eve	270	273	297 (online)	85 (online) 115 (in-person)	65 (online) 148 (in-person)
Christmas Day	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36 (online) 22 (in-person)



Easter Sunday, 2022

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL PROFILE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE / COMMITTEE LIAISON</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>	
Jennifer Olivo	President	January 2024	1 st term
Mike Serve	Treasurer	January 2023	1 st term
Laurie Zaucha	Financial Secretary	January 2024	1 st term
The Rev. Johanna Rehbaum	Worship & Music	n/a	n/a
Jamie Foster	Building & Grounds	January 2023	2 nd term
Jim Berndt	Fellowship	January 2024	1 st term
Patty Cain	Social Ministry & Recording Secretary	January 2023	1 st term
Ann Menendez	Christian Education	January 2023	1 st term
Sue Wyatt	Altar Guild	January 2023	1 st term

Minister of Music Annual Report

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
lathe,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*

The wave of the omicron variant Covid-19 in January of 2022 plunged us back into a gray uncertainty of how to proceed with singing safely. Any momentum we had built with the return of in-person music making in the fall of 2021 suddenly felt perilously balanced once again, and I recall writing last year's annual report with a heavy heart amidst this uncertainty. But one year later, I write this report with great enthusiasm, hope, and momentum behind what has been, despite those early frustrations with Covid, a successful and uplifting year.

I want to begin with continued gratitude for our Choral Scholars: Helena Webster, Laura O'Neill, David Falterman, and Josh Bassette. As our choir attendance understandably declined during the omicron surge in early 2022, these four wonderful singers kept our ensemble afloat. They bring light and grace through their voices and presence in our community. In December, we celebrated them with a "Scholars Sunday" recital, and I look forward to hosting another recital in the Spring.

Our Choral Scholars led us through the solemn drama of Good Friday, and Covid cases eased enough to allow a full complement of joyful brass, bell, and choral music on Easter Sunday. An extended prelude began both services and one hymn was even led by the bells.

I want to note that the success of our musicians on Easter Sunday is a testament to their resilience, flexibility, and commitment to our music program: in the weeks leading up to Easter, we lost significant rehearsal time due to my illness with Covid and the loss of my grandmother. Both ensembles ended up rehearsing some of their Easter Sunday music for the very first time on the Wednesday before Easter - but they all rose to the occasion and elevated our worship experience. Over the summer, we purchased copies of *All Creation Sings*, a new hymnal supplement to the ELW. This recent publication from Augsburg Fortress includes new and thoughtful pairings of hymn texts and tunes, supports living composers and poets, and features a wider range of global hymnody. We are ever grateful to Jim Sheldon, whose financial contribution made this purchase possible. Thank you, Jim, for supporting the Church's song in every age!

A goal from last year's music ministry annual report was to continue connecting with local musicians and welcoming them into our space. In May, I used extra Choral Scholars funds to bring in four singers from the community to finish our choir year off strong. One of those singers, Victoria Cappon, is now a regular member of our choir! Welcome, Victoria! Other guest musicians included Glenna Curren (cello) and Epongue Ekille (violin).



Many congregants also provided special musical offerings: Claire Cunningham (saxophone), Addie Canning (tuba), Wes Wyatt, Holley Haynes, and Melissa Netzband (singers) and Liam Peterson (trumpet) all performed for us over the summer. I also want to thank the contributions of Jason DeLorenze and Scott Conderman (trumpets), and Zach Canning (trombone) who provided mighty brass for Transfiguration and Reformation Sundays, as well as Christmas Eve.

On Christ the King Sunday, we reintroduced the sung Gospel Annunciation and Conclusion (“Glory to you, O Lord” and “Praise to you, O Christ”). This may seem like a small adjustment, but I believe it elevates the worship experience and that the repetition of these few seconds of music each Sunday reminds us that worshipping together in our space is a truly sacred and unique experience.

Through our extended Advent season, we experienced a greater amount of Advent music than we normally can offer in a typical 4-week season. For our first Sunday in Advent, which was in mid-November, we combined the hymn “Joy to the World” with the tune DOVE OF PEACE. This is a wonderful exercise to reflect on how the aesthetic sound of our hymns affects or changes the meaning of a familiar text (did you know you can also sing “Joy to the World” to the tune of “Amazing Grace”?).

The Sunday after our Scholar’s recital, for the first time since I have served this congregation, our children presented a Christmas Pageant and sang some of the beloved Christmas hymns. This was truly a highlight of the year for me, and made me eager to continue the momentum of our Children’s Music Ministry.

Christmas Eve also featured bells, brass, and voices. The bells in particular provided a unique “carillon” effect to transition us between certain pieces of our 30-minute pastoral-themed prelude. The prelude concluded with the Ukrainian Carol *Nebo I Zemlja* (“Sing Earth and Heaven”). This year was the first time I’ve led music on Christmas Day, and it was a joy to collaborate with my father, as well as Lois and Richard Johnson (Pr. Johanna’s parents!) for a fulfilling service of lessons and carols.

One aspect of the music ministry that did not come to fruition as hoped this year was the Junior Choral Scholars Program. Despite my leads with many communities all over Rochester, finding just one candidate proved to be more difficult than expected. Although we are removing the line item for this program out of the budget, I continue to reflect on ways our music ministry can better feed our broader community. Perhaps there are ways our music ministry can go to the people the Junior Choral Scholars aimed to reach (students from families with low incomes) rather than asking them to come to us.

Looking ahead to 2023, I am most excited to continue regrowing the music ministry for our children. It may take very small steps to get there, but small steps have been crucial in our recovery from the pandemic. I look forward to getting to know our young people better and developing their musicality through community and song. My thanks to those who encourage these inspiring children to sing!

I also look forward to writing more music for this community. One of the most fulfilling parts of my job has been composing the weekly Gospel Acclamation (the brief verse the choir sings just before the reading of the Gospel), and I hope to complete a full three-year lectionary cycle in the coming years. I hope to compose more congregational hymns this year as well (I composed two hymns for our church in 2022 - one for Transfiguration Sunday, and one in honor of Michelle Josephson on her final Sunday with us as Office Administrator). I am eager to contribute more to the catalog of music written in and for St. Paul’s!

Thank you for the financial resources you continue to give to the music program in efforts to diversify our choral library. Always an ongoing project, I strive for my programming to be a small form of activism to lift up underrepresented musical voices. This year I hope to better represent composers, poets, and hymn writers from non-Western traditions and continue my efforts to support living composers. The Church's song (along with the Church itself!) is always reforming its great heritage into new ages.

Joys both great and small have been woven throughout my experience in this community this year: joy was found in continued healing from the pandemic, in increased numbers in our ensembles, in gathering for coffee after the service. I hope our music ministry has given you joy as well. It is with great eagerness that I look to the coming year of music in our church!

In the gentle joy of hope,
Jon Madden

Mutual Ministry Annual Report

The Mutual Ministry committee serves to encourage positive communication between St. Paul's members, church committees, and our staff. We act as a sounding board for both concerns and new ideas. Our committee maintains strict confidentiality on personnel matters that are shared with us, as it is essential that both members and staff see us as a safe place to share concerns.

To communicate this mission, in November we gave a "Moments for Mission" talk to the congregation about the work we do. We currently have six members, in addition to Pastor Johanna. The members are: Chris Coffey, Liz DeLorenze, Helen Fee, Harry Fitzsimmons, Grant Krafft and Barb Servé.

An informal one-year review of our Minister of Music, Jon Madden, took place early in 2023. Such reviews serve as a way for us to make sure our staff members feel supported and have what they need to continue serving us as effectively as possible. A similar review will take place for Jenna Meyn after she has been here a full year.

Our guidelines state that the pastor is reviewed after her first year (as she was in 2020), and thereafter at a three-year interval. Thus, the committee will prepare a formal evaluation of Pastor Johanna this year. The congregation will be invited to make comments and suggestions on a short questionnaire. This committee will sort and compile responses, and share them confidentially with Pastor Johanna, to help her best serve the needs of this congregation and its members.

Thank you for putting your trust in us to carry out this important work!

Altar Guild Annual Report

What is the purpose of an Altar Guild:

1. To care for the altar and its furnishings and linens, candles and to prepare it for each worship service.
2. To care for the chapel.
3. To care for the acolytes' robes, purificators, fair linen and paraments – assuring they are clean and pressed.
4. To perform any other necessary duties in accordance with the pastor's wishes.

Excerpts taken from S. Anita Stauffer's Altar Guild Handbook



Who are the Altar Guild:

We are members of St Paul's who are servants: servants of God, servants of God's people, servants of the liturgy, and servants of the worship space. We are grateful servants.

The Altar Guild consist of several divisions: Acolytes, Lectors/Prayers, Altar Linens, Altar Care, Communion Set-up/Clean-up, Communion Assistant, Greeters, Flowers, Ushers, Holy Bread. In each of these divisions there is a church member who has volunteered to be the go to person for taking on a volunteer who is interested in learning about the duties of the area they would like to be involved in. Also providing assists for Sundays in need.

The committee consists of the following members:

Leisa North (Liaison for Altar Guild), Pastor Johanna, Mara Berndt, Theo Haynes, Robin Hoagland, Julie Huse, and Dorothy Borglum (communion bread)

The Altar Guild is always busy throughout the year working on so many exciting things:

- Flower/card delivery to Homebound members at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day
- Set up for special services: Advent, Christmas Eve, Transfiguration of Our Lord, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, Holy Trinity, Memorial Day, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Day, Christ the King
- Mara Berndt made a Worship Calendar with all settings, colors, special needs for services
- Decorating the Advent Wreath
- Arranging Easter flowers
- Arranging Christmas poinsettias

Accomplishments for 2022 Altar Guild:

- Purchase of new corporals for the Altar
- Purchase of 2 Easter credence table linens
- Purchase of glass communion cups
- Replacement of the white " Alleluia " parament

Hopes for 2023 Altar Guild:

- Purchase of more credence table linens
- Purchase of two tables that are sturdier for communion trays to sit on during communion distribution

The committee is looking forward to 2023 and all that it has to offer. Our committee is faithfully committed to serving our God and St. Paul's. If at any point you have any questions or would like to learn more about the areas of the altar guild, please do not hesitate to ask anyone of us on the committee. No question is too small and no time given is too small. Please consider volunteering. God's work can be done with many hands!

Blessings to all!

Your faithful Altar Guild Committee

Dorcas Rachel Circle Annual Report

Dorcas Rachel Circle serves many purposes. It encourages the spirit of Christian fellowship among women of St. Paul's Social Ministry, provides help in the community and around the world, and supports the needs of the church. Circle members also support and attend conference meetings and programs of Upstate New York of ELCA and Church Women United throughout the area during the year.

We changed our meeting schedule in 2022. While we still met monthly (except summer months), we have been starting with our program, then moving on to devotions and business meeting. Throughout the fall, the program was a Bible study, facilitated by Pastor Johanna. This was one well-received.

Members of the Dorcas Rachel Women take turns being responsible for the meeting by leading devotions and serving as hostesses for the day. The ladies enjoy a breakfast snack, coffee and tea during the meeting.

Dorcas Rachel Women has adopted a shelf at the Pittsford Food Cupboard. At each monthly meeting members bring in paper goods to help keep that shelf full! Items accepted: toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, facial tissues. If you are interested in helping us keep that shelf full, please see a DRW member.

The women also supported:

- Church Women United
- Women of the New York ELCA Synod
- Maggie's Kids
- St. Paul's Memorial Fun
- Family Promise
- St. Paul's Altar Guild
- Rochester Center for the Youth (Service project during Lent)
- Seafarer's International House (Knitting hats for sailors around the world)
- Lutheran World Relief - Quilting for a Cause
- Saints Place (Birthday Jar collection)

The Dorcas Rachel Women is open to all members of St. Paul's who resonate with our mission. Please feel free to join us at any time – for our program, or for the whole thing! We meet the second Thursday of the month at 11am.

Peace and joy,

Leisa North

President of the Dorcas Rachel Circle

Building & Grounds Annual Report

St. Paul's building and grounds are in excellent condition, and we are grateful for that especially in light of a considerable increase in church use during 2022. In-person attendance at worship continues to grow, and we have fully integrated the technology for live streaming our services.

Dozens of people attended the S'Mortgage Burning Celebration to celebrate paying off our mortgage. It was wonderful to have a large gathering of congregation members to share a meal and conversation (and make pretzels!). Decorating for Advent returned this year as a congregational event, and we thank all those who helped make the church look fantastic. In addition to these special events, we welcomed more outside groups as they returned to in-person meetings.



We have a lot of people working to keep the building and landscaping looking great, and we are grateful for their efforts. Replacing lighting, getting a new water heater, completing minor boiler repairs and getting the bathrooms back in working condition were among the projects completed this year. We appreciate the contributions of Boy Scout Troop 167, who worked on the brick patio outside the Lincoln Street entrance.

Tim Carder, our sexton, was surprised recently to discover a squirrel exploring the sanctuary. He had apparently gotten in through the steeple (the squirrel, not Tim). Since we prefer those participating in church activities to enter through the doors, we will hire someone to examine the steeple and cover any critter entrances. They will do some painting and other maintenance work while they are up there. Another project for 2023 will be to complete some needed work on the porch outside the church offices. We also look forward to sprucing up the nursery and making the Dorcas Rachel room an even more welcoming meeting space.



If you have a project in mind to improve or beautify the church, let us know! We would love to have your help to keep St. Paul's fit for praise and worship, mission work and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
The Building and Grounds Committee

Fellowship Committee Annual Report

After a two-year pandemic 2022 saw St. Paul's return to in-person worship and gave us the opportunity to once again gather as friends in an environment of true fellowship.

What a joy to once again meet face to face and share the fellowship that the church community offers!

We immediately reinstituted our Fellowship Friends ministry in 2022 with 27 people in 3 different groups, including several new members and regular visitors wanted to get more connected. These groups facilitated fellowship opportunities outside of St. Paul's. We had backyard dinners, Cider and donuts on the canal and game night just to mention just a few. The 2023 installment of Fellowship Friends ministry just kicked off with over 35 people and 4 different groups to begin fellowship gatherings for the next 6 months. One of the groups is "Day Light Savings Time" and only gathers during the day, no evening events.



Our annual picnic returned to Kings Bend and we had over 50 friends and family gather for worship, hot dogs and hamburgers off the grill (despite the rain!) and a potluck buffet in the North Lodge.

Ann Menendez and a group of volunteers organized a terrific mortgage burning Party featuring an authentic Oktoberfest menu and s'mores over the open fire in the church parking lot, where we **actually burned our mortgage!**

As we move into 2023, we look forward to a new normal with more fellowship opportunities for our church and its members. We are actively looking for congregation members to join the fellowship committee to help ensure we continue to have a vibrant church community for worship and fellowship.



Anyone interested in joining the Fellowship Committee and perhaps even leading the committee, please contact me, Jim Berndt, or e-mail at jrberndt@icloud.com

Respectfully submitted by:

Jim Berndt, St. Paul's Fellowship Council Representative

Christian Education Annual Report

Important mission milestones for St. Paul's Lutheran church are growing our children's faith and meeting the spiritual needs of our congregation. We strive to meet those needs through Family Faith and Fun nights, Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, and Lenten and Advent devotionals and programming. In 2022, faith formation occurred in these programs:

Family Faith and Fun Nights:

March: Eleven children from six families attended an Easter Resurrection themed event. The children went on a Resurrection Egg hunt. Then, using the contents of the eggs, they explored the story of the Passion. The children made palms to wave on Palm Sunday, their own Resurrection Egg collection, and Easter cards to send to the shut-ins of the congregation. Children learned a prayer technique where they used play-doh to help focus their prayers. They went home with ingredients and instructions for Resurrection Rolls, a treat where a marshmallow disappears in the roll during baking leaving an 'empty tomb.'



June: Ten children from six families gathered outside to learn the creation story. The children explored the church grounds looking for all of God's creations from Earth, sky, wind, plants, and animals. They tasted herbs and sampled recipes using the herbs with fruits and vegetables, and planted their own seeds. Using Psalm 8 as a guide, they wrote their own creation Psalms (which you got to read in the Advent devotional!). The evening ended with a campfire, roasting marshmallows and much laughter, singing, and fun for all.



November: Twelve children from six families attended a gratitude themed evening using the Bible story where Jesus heals ten lepers. The crafts included painting gift stones to express gratitude and turkey head dress/table topper with feathers listing what the children were thankful for. Kids enjoyed a gratitude yoga practice, where they grew from seeds to flowers praising God, then returning back to the earth to rest. For a service project, each kid chose a short biography of one of our homebound members to learn a bit about them, and then made them a Christmas cards. Families were charged to pray for their member throughout the season.

Summer Outdoor Worship:

Back by popular demand, worship was held outside in June, July and August on the fourth Sunday of the month. Services were planned with young children in mind, with songs they know and love and a lengthier children's sermon in place of the adult sermon.

Vacation Bible School:

In August, Holley Haynes and Pastor Johanna lead Vacation Bible School (VBS). The theme was water. We learned about Jonah and the whale, Jesus calming the storm, Jesus' baptism, and the Big Catch. The book *A Long Walk to Water* was given to the families participating in VBS, and we learned about those in South Sudan who have to walk long distances just to get fresh water to drink, cook, and clean. The children were very inspired and collected \$500 towards a well in South Sudan. Inspired by the children, generous congregation members chipped in, and we were able to buy a whole well for a South Sudanese village!



Christmas Pageant:

During the November Family Faith and Fun night, children started learning some Christmas music, led by Jon Madden. In December Holley Haynes, with help of Scott Conderman and Pastor Johanna, directed the children's pageant. The children learned and presented the Christmas story during worship. Accompanied by Jon on the piano, the children presented the pageant in place of the sermon during the fourth Sunday in Advent. It certainly was "something to remember!"



Confirmation Class:

Three youth were confirmed in June of 2022. Pastor Johanna teaches six youth in the current class, which is a two year class. This year they are learning about the Small Catechism and the Christian life.

First Communion Class:

In May, Pastor Johanna taught nine children about communion. They even got to bake their own bread, under the tutelage of Mark Tayman. We used their bread for each of their first communions, which happened throughout the month of June.

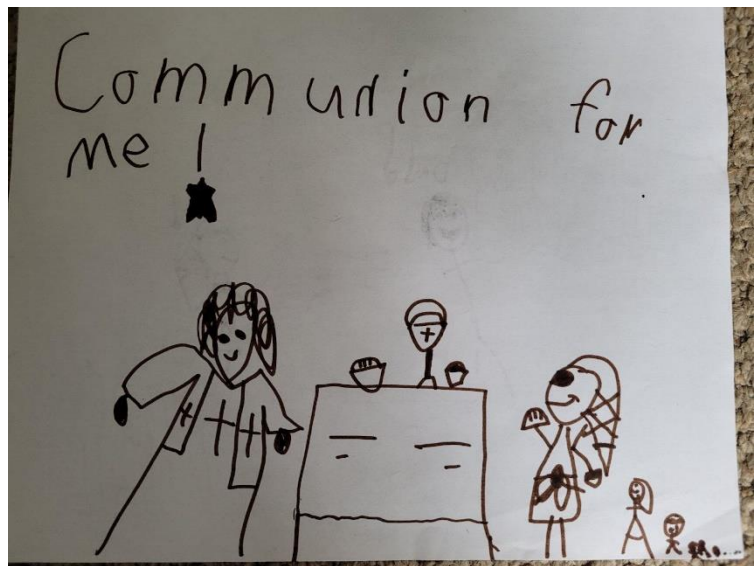


Adult Bible Study

During Lent, Pastor Johanna led a Bible study of the Gospel of Luke. The studies occurred every Sunday of Lent directly after the worship service. The Lenten Daily Devotional, “You are Here” (from Barn Geese Worship) focused on the Holy Land.

Through the fall, the Dorcus Rachel women’s group had a Bible study led by Pastor Johanna during their meetings.

During Advent, Pastor led an extended Advent study starting November 6th. A Bible study focusing on the women in Jesus’ genealogy took participants through the lives and unlikely scenarios which fulfilled the prophecies and promises leading to the birth of Jesus. The theme and daily devotional was “Out of the Blue.” The devotional included questions for journaling and focused on finding God in unexpected places.



Youth Faith Formation:

Activities such as confirmation class and getting confirmands involved as acolytes during the service is engaging the youth who are older than elementary school age. We continue to discern, along with other congregations in our conference, how best to serve the needs of our youth; every congregation in our local conference is struggling with how best to meet youth’s needs since the pandemic. We will keep you posted with the progress; meanwhile, we invite any and all feedback, especially from youth and their families, about what would best serve this vibrant and important population.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ann Menendez

Council Member for Christian Education

Social Ministry Action Committee Annual Report

In 2022, St. Paul's members supported a number of community organizations through hands on projects and financial and other contributions. In addition to the organizations which St. Paul's has supported for many years, in Fall, 2022, St. Paul's and its members agreed to accompany a family sponsored by Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services. Additional information about this service is provided below.

Following are highlights of various activities (in alphabetical order) in which St. Paul's and its members engaged in 2022. At the end of this report is a summary of the financial contributions that St. Paul's made to community organizations.

Buffalo Community Fridge



The horrific shooting that occurred at a Buffalo Tops store in May, 2022 was devastating on many levels – one of which was that Tops was the only food source in what was otherwise a food desert. Under the leadership of Liz DeLorenze, St. Paul's collected 2 van loads of grocery items that were delivered to the Buffalo Community Center on June 18, 2022.

Family Promise of Greater Rochester (formerly RAIHN)

St. Paul's has supported Family Promise since 2009. Family Promise provides housing, support and hospitality for families facing homelessness. As Family Promise changes its service model (see their website fpgroc.org for more info), St. Paul's members continued to support families experiencing homelessness with funding for meals and food staples, as well as gifts for the holidays for a family of five. Opportunities for congregants to participate in activities like the Strike Out Homelessness bowl-a-thon and the Night Without a Bed awareness event are on-going. Contact: Jen Canning, jennifer.canning@urgrad.rochester.edu.

Loop Ministries Urban Food Pantry

Loop Ministries Food Pantry moved its distribution location from Glory House (previously Reformation Lutheran Church) in the summer of 2022. It now is housed in the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word. It continues to serve the same five downtown zip codes as before the move, though much publicity is required to let previous and new users know of its new location. St. Paul's collected food items and paper grocery bags for Loop Ministries continuously throughout 2022. In addition, members contributed food and funds for Loop Ministries in connection with the God's Work, Our Hands service on September 11, 2022. St. Paul's members also donated dry goods in support of an ongoing Loop Ministries' fundraiser that is conducted in conjunction with Savers Thrift Store, which paid Loop Ministries \$0.20 per pound for the collected goods. This fundraiser has dovetailed well with the outpouring of clothing donations for the Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services family that St. Paul's is accompanying, which generated donations of clothing that the refugees could not use, so the excess clothing was donated to the Loop/Savers dry goods campaign. Contact: Theo Haynes, haynes.theo@gmail.com, (404) 312-6216.

Maggie's Kids Hat and Gloves

The Dorcas Rachel Women invited St. Paul's members to bring in mittens, gloves and scarves to hang on the "Maggie's Kids" Christmas tree located in the church foyer. Maggie Harris operates Community Lutheran Ministry in Rochester which is solely focused on the children living in the 14621 zip code, which is currently one of the most impoverished and crime-ridden areas of the City of Rochester.

Pittsford Food Cupboard

Throughout the year, St. Paul's members contribute to the Pittsford Food Cupboard. This organization provides emergency food assistance to serve the needs in Pittsford, Mendon, Honeoye Falls, Brighton, East Rochester and some areas in the city of Rochester. Contact: Theo Haynes, haynes.theo@gmail.com, (404) 312-6216.

Quilting for a Cause at St. Paul's

This group meets monthly to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and local organizations and individuals. All are welcome to join this effort by quilting or making material or monetary donations. Contact Leisa North, leisanorth@gmail.com.

Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services (RRRS)



St. Paul's is accompanying the Mutombo family who is seeking asylum in the United States. The family members are Desire (dad), Odine (mom), Exauce (boy, 10), Medine (girl, 8), Aicha (girl, 7), Francisco (boy, 4), Stephanio (boy, 2) and Rayan (boy, 3 months). St. Paul's members have met and spent time with the family getting to know them and helping where needed, including by spending time with the family in their home and with the children at the RRRS office during English lessons on Saturday mornings. We have also collected blankets for the families sponsored by RRRS and

helped the Mutumbo family get outfitted for the winter. Assistance is also needed from time to time with transportation and other needs, such as household cleaning. Contacts: Liz DeLorenze, ejdelorenze@gmail.com and Jamie Foster, jpfoster.foster@gmail.com.

Seafarers International House

St. Paul's knitted hats for Seafarers International House, in support of an initiative of Women of the ELCA. Seafarers is a social agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a ministry partner of the ELCA synod of Upstate New York. While its roots are decidedly Lutheran, Seafarers offers pastoral care, hospitality, social assistance, advocacy, and prayer to all seafarers and immigrants. Contact: Leisa North, leisanorth@gmail.com.

The Center for Youth

For its annual service project, the Dorcas Rachel Women organized a Lenten collection for the Center for Youth. This organization was founded in 1971 by students from Brighton High School who wanted to create a center that would meet the needs of youth in Rochester, New York. Its services include providing shelter, housing and crisis services to youth, youth-centered activities and programs, and school-based programming.

Water for South Sudan

The children at Vacation Bible School raised money and enthusiastically sought support for Water for South Sudan, an organization that seeks funding to build wells in South Sudan. St. Paul's raised more than \$17,000, which covers the cost of a well that will serve an average of 750 people.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

For many years, St. Paul's has provided funds to community organizations, either in the form of annual donations or contributions as a member organization. These annual contributions allow the organizations to utilize the funds in the way they are most needed (e.g., operating funds). Following is a list of contributions made by St. Paul's in 2022:

Eastern Service Workers Association - \$300
Elderberry Express (member organization) - \$250
Family Promise of Greater Rochester (FPGROC, formerly RAIHN, member organization) -\$250
Plus member contributions for a total of \$565.15
Flower City Habitat for Humanity (member organization) - \$100
Plus member contributions for a total of \$143.71
Loop Ministries (member organization) - \$500
Plus member contributions for a total of \$815
Pittsford Food Cupboard - \$250
Pittsford Youth Services (member organization) - \$100
Refugee Resettlement - \$500
Saint's Place - \$250
Lake Chautaugua Lutheran Center - \$1,000

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Cain (Council liaison) and Jen Canning (Social Ministry Action Committee chair)

Finance Annual Report

January 29, 2023

2022 was a very productive year for the Finance Committee. We were blessed with a stable and dedicated committee (Kiki Coffey, Jeff Haynes, Mike Serve and Laurie Zaucha), and the support of our new bookkeeper (Kathie Mariano). We are also grateful for Steve Kane, our Financial Advisor at Heritage Financial Services.

We had some significant accomplishments in 2022. Most notably, we were able to use money from our investment funds to pay off the mortgage! We are so fortunate to be *debt free*. We conducted our first independent audit in several years and received a clean report. Kathie Mariano, our bookkeeper, worked tirelessly to convert our financials over to Church360 Ledger from Shepard's Staff. The Committee reviewed our investment strategy with Steve Kane and rebalanced our accounts. And finally, we applied for and received a grant from the Snyder Memorial Trust.

From a financial perspective we were able to maintain our solid financial standing. Total Income came in higher than 2021, but less than we had budgeted. Expenses came in higher than budgeted and higher than our income, resulting in a budget deficit of \$13,600. Last year was an unusually difficult year for global investment markets, however our investment portfolio performed better than most indices.

Income vs. Expense: Operating income finished the year at \$273,365 vs. a budget of \$281,100. Operating expenses for the year ended at \$286,983 vs. a budget of \$281,100. Reserve funds were used to cover some expenses outside of the operating budget.

Investment Assets: Our Heritage investment accounts ended the year lower than they started (\$333,607 on January 1 to \$240,989 on December 31). We used funds from the General and Capital Appeal accounts to pay off our mortgage, which accounts for much of the decrease. On an account-by-account basis, the 2022 investment returns were as follows.

- General Account: -4.12%
- Appeal Account: -10.43%
- Mary Magdalene Account: -11.11%
- Endowment Account: -16.32%

The primary driver of the volatility and negative investment returns that we experienced was inflation, as the Fed embarked on a mission to bring down inflation through rate hikes. St. Paul's investment accounts are a mix of stocks and bonds, and when aggregated, the accounts finished 2022 with a -10.19% return. So, while it was a down year, the accounts were able to significantly outperform both the widely followed stock and bond indexes.

2023 Budget: We are pleased to be able to present a balanced budget, which we feel is realistic with the financial support of our congregation. As was the case last year, only 20% of our members submitted commitment cards for 2023, which makes it difficult to estimate income. We projected income growth of approximately 4.9%. Our expenses were budgeted to represent investment in our livestream worship and music programs. Several lines deserve further explanation:

- Festival/Guest Musicians – this line is zero in our operating budget. We will use funds from the Music reserve fund, which has a balance of \$12,211.
- Vacation Bible School – this line is zero in our operating budget. We will use funds from the Vacation Bible School reserve fund, which has a balance of \$1,229.
- IT Equipment – this line is zero in our operating budget. We will use funds from the general investment fund if IT equipment is needed.
- VANCO fees – this expense was not separate in previous budgets. We wanted to be able to track this expense.
- Minister of Music Medical Allowance – this line is zero as Jon now has insurance provided through another employer.
- Staff Salary:
 - Staff will be given a 3% pay increase.
 - Tim’s hours are reduced to 20 per week.
 - LYO Coordinator – reduced salary budget due to intent to share a resource with other churches in the community.
 - Livestream Coordinator added as a paid position.
 - Church Secretary and Bookkeeper are now separate positions.
- Music – Benevolence Choral Scholars – no junior choral scholars were identified in 2022. If this program is successful in 2023 the funds will come from the Music reserve fund.

If you would like further explanation, please don’t hesitate to contact any member of the Finance Committee.

As we reflect on 2022 and look forward to 2023, we are grateful for the generous financial support of our congregation and friends. We are counting on that continued generosity in the coming year as we fulfill the mission of St. Paul’s.

Respectfully Submitted:
St. Paul’s Finance Committee

Laurie Zaucha, Financial Secretary
Mike Serve, Treasurer
Kiki Coffee
Jeff Haynes