Pastor Page: Kids in Worship

One of the many gifts my young children have given me is an appreciation for parents who manage to get their kids to church on Sunday, and who work so diligently to raise them in the faith. I watch my poor frazzled husband trying to wrangle our active little dears, telling the 2yo and 3yo, “I know you see your mommy standing right up there, but you can’t be with her!” and then dealing with the aftermath. When I sit with them in the pews when I’m on vacation, I play the simultaneous roles of jungle gym, snack dispenser, comforter, and oh yeah, teacher of faith and how to worship – and I say a silent prayer of thanks for all the parents who do this every Sunday! I see you, parents, and know that you are heroes, each one!

I have always loved coming to worship, and don’t recall a time when I was not sitting in a pew each week, participating in whatever way I could. All my life I have longed and hoped for this for my own kids, for them to be excited to go to church, for them to learn the words of faith and liturgy by heart at the same time they learn their ABCs, for them never to recall a time they could not say the Lord’s Prayer or sing the Kyrie. I dearly want to teach them about worship, explain to them what is happening and why it is incredible, and show them the ways they meet Jesus there.

But as the pastor, this is nearly impossible. On Sunday morning, I have the important call to do that for all of you (a call I cherish!). While my son is content to play with cars in the nursery, my darling daughter truly believes she is a pastor too, and that she can and should help me. And so bows when I bow, and blesses each child who comes to communion by tracing the sign of the cross on their foreheads. When I try to shuffle her away to the nursery and she says, “But I’m Pastor Grace!” my heart breaks, for I never want to stifle that sense of call or make her feel in any way unwanted or unvalued in the worship space!

I know that for some, watching this play out during worship is a joy and a delight. My hope is that their presence will remind us all of the childlike wonder we bring to the glory of God, remembering that we are all but children, desperately in need of the love and care of our Divine Parent. My hope is also that other kids will see mine up there and think, “Oh, there is a place for me here. I see someone who looks like me.”

Even as I experience this hope, I also know some are distracted by my kids’ insistence at being “Pastor” up front with mommy, and that this takes away from their worship experience. This, too, breaks my heart! I feel stuck, not knowing how to fulfill these two vocations that necessarily collide for this hour on Sunday morning, and never want anyone to feel unwelcome.

I write this primarily to express my gratitude to you as we figure it out. Thank you to those who have been so willing to help, both in the nursery and in worship, and especially when Michael is out of town – I hope that as my kids get to know you better, they will be willing to sit (quietly!) with you in the pews. Thank you to those who tell me what joy you find in watching me manage both roles, telling me that it does, indeed, enhance your worship experience to see it. And thank you especially to those of you who find this current reality distracting to your worship, and yet have stuck with it, coming each week to worship our God, who was himself once a wiggly, noisy toddler in worship! These years are short, and it takes a village to raise our children in faith, and I’m grateful to have you as my village, the Body of Christ, helping my active little ones to know the love of Jesus and the joy of worship.

In peace,
Pastor Johanna
Please remember to take a moment on Sundays to complete a **Communion Card** each time you receive communion. This serves as record of member communion and is a way for Pastor to know if we missed anyone on Sunday that may be in need of pastoral care or attention.

Cards are located in the back of the Sanctuary and in the pews. You may place your completed card in the offering plate or hand it to an usher as you come forward to receive the sacrament.

**SERVICE ATTENDANCE**

“WE COUNT BECAUSE YOU COUNT”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>(2nd Serv.)</th>
<th>Nursery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 7th</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st (Easter)</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>3</td>
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Average Sunday attendance through April 2019 – 152
Average Sunday attendance through April 2018 – 107
Average Sunday attendance through April 2017 – 125

(April 2019 numbers will be reported in next month’s newsletter.)

**PASTORAL ACTS**

Funeral: Dolores Ford – May 1st, 2019  
(d. 4/23/19)

Burial: Mary Greene – May 9th, 2019  
(d. 5/3/19)

Wedding: Matthew & Meghan (Russo) McKay – May 18th, 2019

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**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.
Celebrate Pentecost with Families

The Day of Pentecost is a big festival of the church year – it is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into our midst to form the Church! The book of Acts tells us the Spirit came like a rushing wind and rested on everyone like tongues of fire, and everyone spoke in different languages but understood each other perfectly. It’s sort of a birthday party for the Church!

Celebrate Pentecost in worship by wearing RED (the color we use to depict the Holy Spirit), then keep that Spirit blowing throughout the day. Here are some ways to celebrate at home:

- Read the Pentecost STORY together out of a children’s Bible (Acts 2). Invite your child to help you with sound effects.
- Go fly a kite to celebrate the WIND blowing, and give thanks for the Spirit.
- Make lunch or dinner with all RED foods. Teach your children that red is the color we use to depict the Holy Spirit.
- Round out your red meal with some red velvet BIRTHDAY cake, with FIRE (candles) on top of course! Add some balloons and hats and make it a full birthday party for the Church. Sing Happy Birthday to the Church.
- Make a Pentecost craft – there are tons of great ideas on Pinterest.
- If you do bedtime prayers, address them to the Holy Spirit tonight, explaining that the Holy Spirit is just as much GOD as the Father or Jesus. The Spirit is a part of the Trinity.

Pentecost is June 9th!
This will also be the first “Summer Choir” Sunday of the summer.

If you enjoy singing but are unable to make the commitment during the program year, this is a great opportunity! There will be a short, unison hymn-anthem at the Offertory and a few Taizé chants at Communion. Throughout the service, the hymns and service music will draw from different cultures to reflect the universal language of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to sing, please contact Caroline Robinson crobinson@stpaulspittsford.org so she can plan ahead.

A short rehearsal will take place on Wednesday, June 5th at 7:30pm in the choir loft. Please try your best to attend if you are planning on singing - especially if you are not normally in the choir.
Articles for the July & August Summer edition of the “Link” must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 17th. If presenting a hand-written article, please drop it off in the office by Thursday, June 13th.

Directory/Contact Info Update: Please make sure that your current contact information is on file with the church office to include all members of your household, dates of birth, current mailing address and phone number. If you have a new email address and would like email communications, please be sure that is on file with the office as well.

Church Office Hours have been adjusted now that we are settling into our new routines and schedules. The office is now open Monday through Thursday, 11:00 am – 4:00 PM. As always, please feel free to call the office with any questions, concerns or membership needs.

With warmest gratitude,
Michelle Josephson
Church Office Manager

THANK YOU!

Dear friends at St. Paul’s,
I would like to thank Denise Minnigh for coming to my house and bringing a bag of goodies and the pretty flower pot. I really appreciated the gift and visit. After my March 26th quadricep surgery, I am healing quite well, but still have to wear the full knee brace and cannot drive. The brace was to be worn 24/7 but I now can take the brace off for sleeping and showering.

While in rehab I also had a visit from Pastor Johanna for which I would like to thank her.

With gratitude,
Elvira Lein

Council’s next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11th at 6:45 p.m.

Financial report: Giving and budget are fairly on track, though Capital Appeal giving is lagging a bit.

Small groups: Hosting small groups in the congregation by geographical area was one of the big goals this year that came out of our March retreat. We hope these groups will help rebuild relationships after a rough couple of transitional years, as well as give Pastor Johanna a forum where she can get to know members with more intention. These groups have been formulated and hosts identified, and we are moving forward with scheduling.

Nursery attendant: We continue to actively seek out a nursery attendant, with plans to post the position more broadly.

Council minutes and annual reports will be available without a password on the website to facilitate transparency. All annual reports and council minutes will also continue to be available with a freely distributed password and in the church office.

Sound system and Pastor’s microphone were professionally repaired for ~$600.

Lay ministry: Sign-up Genius is being used this summer for lay ministry sign-ups, with some altar care volunteers being called (as per request).

New members: Council voted to welcome Mark Pulli, Grant Krafft & Patty Cain, and Ben, Sarah and Aaron Casper into membership in our congregation.
Meet Our New Members

On June 16, we will officially receive six new members to St. Paul’s. Be sure to introduce yourself to them, and welcome them among us. Here are some bios to help you get to know them:

**Mark Pulli** is a semi-retired English teacher who taught at Penfield High School. He recently moved to Fairport with Robin Hoagland. We have Mark and Robin to thank for arranging our beautiful Easter flowers this year!

**Grant Krafft and Patty Cain** moved from Glenview, Illinois to Pittsford in January to be close to their daughter, son-in-law, and 15-month granddaughter (and a bit closer to their son in New York City). For the past 31 years, they were active members of Lutheran Church of the Ascension (Northfield, IL). Patty is a partner at the Chicago law firm, Neal Gerber and Eisenberg. Grant is a director and scientific advisor to the Alzheimer’s drug company he founded, Acumen Pharmaceuticals. Grant has joyfully joined the tenor section of our choir, and Patty has already taught Sunday School.

**Ben, Sarah and Aaron Casper:** Ben, Sarah and Aaron Casper moved to Rochester nearly four years ago from Rhode Island, but are from Wisconsin originally, and are pleased to have finally found a church home at St. Paul’s. All three love singing barbershop, and Sarah also sings alto in our St. Paul’s choir as well as Concentus Women’s Chorus. Sarah works as a Pathology Assistant at Highland Hospital, and Ben is a stay-at-home dad extraordinaire, who also enjoys woodworking and photography. Aaron is 5, and always has a good question to ask, and rocks a three-piece suit with the best of them.

Meet Our Confirmands!

On June 2, we celebrated three of our young people affirming the baptism in the Rite of Confirmation. Learn a bit about these incredible young people:

**Teddy Gangloff**
Teddy is an 8th grader at Barker Road Middle School, where he wows people with his mad math skills and his ability to dribble either a basketball or a soccer ball with equal finesse. He has fond memories of Easter egg hunts at St. Paul’s growing up. In his life of faith, he looks forward to volunteering at soup kitchens, and living according to the 10 Commandments, which he learned in confirmation.

**Gina Picirilli** has been running around and exploring St. Paul’s with her sister, Gabi, and her other friends her whole life. Even with a left club foot (two surgeries and 40+ casts!), she manages to stay quite active on her feet, participating in piano, flute, singing, softball, soccer, and basketball, as well as volunteering and helping out wherever and however she can. Now 14 years old and in 8th grade at Honeoye Falls Middle School, Gina really enjoyed learning about the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in confirmation.

**Zachary James**
When he’s not on the football field, you might find Zach James working hard at computer programing and gaming. Or you might encounter him holding open a door for you, with that winning grin of his. He’s that kind of guy, the sort who is naturally kind. A 14-year-old 8th grader at Barker Road Middle School, Zach enjoyed learning in confirmation about how God is everywhere (even “in the darkest valley,” as his favorite verse of the Bible says), not just at church.
Congratulations to all of our 2019 Graduates!!

High School

Ben Coffey is graduating from Fairport High School in June and will be attending Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, with a major in Pre-Med.

Perry Gangloff graduates from Pittsford Mendon High School in June and will attend the University of Buffalo in the Fall.

Luke North graduates from Pittsford Mendon High School in June and will be attending Ohio State University in the Fall, studying Biology.

Ryan Zaucha graduates this June and will be going to Penn State in September, majoring in Engineering.

College/University

Robby Berndt graduated from Bentley University with an Accounting Degree and a Minor in Finance. He will be starting work at Price Waterhouse Cooper, Boston in September.

Zachary Burdett graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in May.

Congratulations to all of our graduates and their families!

Member Accomplishments

Congratulations to these members who have received honors from the larger Church this month:

- Ben Coffey was awarded one of the Rev. William O. Shortz Scholarships this year. This is a scholarship awarded to a select number of Lutheran seniors who apply each year in the amount of $500.

- Fred Risser was nominated by this bishop and received the esteemed Synodical Discipleship Award this year at Synod Assembly. Fred has served in various ways with St. Paul’s finance and administration over the years. At the synod level, Fred has served on the Finance, Investment and Executive Committees, and has been the Synod Treasurer since 2002. He was also re-elected to the board for United Lutheran Seminary.
Friday, June 7th, 7:30pm
“A Night in Paris”
featuring Caroline Robinson
Sponsored by Worship and Music Committee

Join us for a special performance of French music from the 19th and 20th centuries! The program includes selections from Maurice Duruflé’s Suite Op. 5 and the first movement of Widor’s Organ Symphony No. 6. The program ends with Francis Poulenc’s Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpani, performed by our own Caroline Robinson. In place of a string orchestra, award-winning organist Thomas Gaynor (who serves as organist at Christ Church Pittsford and is a colleague of Caroline’s at ESM) will reduce the orchestral score on the Boston baby grand piano at the front of the sanctuary. Dennis O’Keefe will play the timpani part to enhance the rhythmic pulse of the work. Learn how these composers were part of a unique network of composers and organists in one of Paris’ most vibrant artistic periods.

Wine and cheese reception to follow!

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring the community into St. Paul’s, so please invite your friends and neighbors! A $10 suggested donation will help fund our guest musicians’ performances that evening and in future special music events.

All are welcome!

A Choral Journey Around the World:
June 9th at 3:00pm,
First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford

On Pentecost, the day we celebrate the many languages of faith, come hear Concentus Women’s Chorus sing our Spring Concert, celebrating music in many languages from around the world. We will be singing in Farsi, Russian, Spanish, French, Gaelic, Japanese, Hebrew, Portuguese, Finnish, as well as English. Works by Abbie Betinis, Eric William Barnum, and Cary Ratcliff, among others! We’ll round out the concert with a sung prayer for peace around the world (Dona Nobis Pacem).

Concentus includes two members of St. Paul’s – Pastor Johanna, and new member Sarah Casper, who sings in our choir. Both will be featured on pieces in this concert (Johanna in Farsi, Sarah in Finnish). Come support us! $15, $5 for students. More info: concentus.org.
The LYO has several exciting events planned to celebrate this **Father's Day, June 16th**. There will be root beer floats after the service. Additionally, fun games will be held, and there will be a raffle for a gift basket. We hope to see you there!

Watch for upcoming info about our final wrap-up meeting for the LYO year, (Date TBD.)

Questions or comments, please contact Jori Cincotta, jcincott@rochester.rr.com or Jen Canning, jennifer.canning@urgrad.rochester.edu.

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**Dorcas Rachel Circle**

**Spring Luncheon**

**Date:** Thursday, June 13, 2019

**Time:** 11:30- Meeting & Luncheon

**Place:** Monroe Restaurant
3001 Monroe Ave., Pittsford

We will be taking a special monetary collection for the Pittsford Food Cupboard.

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**Upcoming Dates**

**N.Y. Synodical WELCA Convention**

**Weekend Dates:**
October 4-6, 2019

**Time:**
October 4th 3:00 p.m. Registration

October 6th, 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion
Pr. Gail Swanson

**Location:**
Notre Dame Retreat House
5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua, NY 14424

**Church Women United**

**Annual Picnic**

**Friday, June 7th**
Gather at 10:00 a.m.
Program at 10:30 a.m.

**Special speaker:** TBD
Lunch (furnished) at noon

Buckland Lodge
1341 Westfall Road
RSVP appreciated: 585-362-2089
Or cwuroffice@yahoo.com

Come enjoy a salad bar lunch prepared by Church Women United’s Board of Directors.

Please bring: Items for the Community Cupboard of Rochester: **Tea & Canned low/no sugar Fruit, Tuna**
First Small Groups Meeting
Our plan to give every member a chance to meet in a small group with Pastor Johanna and other St. Paul’s members living in their neighborhood is underway! These are the small group meetings for June:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 10, 7:30pm</td>
<td>Jerry and Nancy Graser</td>
<td>7148 Challenger Circle, Victor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 13, 7:15pm</td>
<td>Alex and Eileen Whitaker</td>
<td>45 Wenham Lane Pittsford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20, 7:30pm</td>
<td>Bob and Elly Nicholas</td>
<td>8 Dryden Circle, Pittsford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are in one of these groups, you will be called by the host and invited to attend. Gatherings will include light dessert fare, or whatever else the host desires, and will last 90 minutes. Come connect with old friends, or better yet, meet some new ones.

SAVE the DATE!
Vacation Bible School
August 19th – 23rd
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each day

Please be sure to mark the dates in your calendar and stay tuned for registration details in upcoming church communications.

Synod-Wide Online Resource Study
with Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation
Pastor Lori Kochanski

Do you like to read books that enhance your faith? How about a chance to talk about those books with Lutherans from across the synod, from the comfort of your own home?

Lori Kochanski, our synod’s Director for Faith Formation, is hosting a monthly book group, and you are invited to participate. Group studies will use Zoom technology. Each month, on Facebook and through the Upstate Update, you will find a Zoom invitation to this resource study. There are two possible times to participate: 11:00am or 7:00pm. Each study will take no longer than 1.5 hours.

(If you do not receive the Upstate Update, go to upstatenysynod.org to subscribe.)

Pastor Kochanski will moderate the online conversation about the book. To prepare, make note of some of the points in the book that you find to be interesting or challenging and be prepared to share them with the group.

This study is open to anyone willing to read the book and talk about it with others. Questions? Contact Pastor Kochanski at lkochanski@upstatenysynod.org

(See book selections and dates on the next page...)
June 19:
I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness
by Austin Channing Brown

July 31:
Christian Ethics for a Digital Society
by Kate Ott

August 21:
Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US
by Lenny Duncan

Books for remainder of 2019:
Dreaming of Stones: Poems
by Christine Valters Paintner

Love Big: The Power of Revolutionary Relationships to Heal the World
by Rozella Haydée White

We Will Feast: Rethinking Dinner, Worship, and the Community of God
by Kendall Vanderslice

The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe
by Richard Rohr

~*~

A resource of Upstate NY Synod Strategic Plan: “Faith Alive: Grounded, Growing, Giving, Graced”