

April
2020

The Messenger

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
The Rev. J. Eric Thompson
Transition Pastor
Cell # (585)447-3623
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Council President
Tom Miller



Proudly
Serving

ST. PAUL'S
◆ John A. Priestly III
◆ SR Mountzouros, Andrew, M.
Naval Submarine School



DEADLINE
April 14

Send submissions to
saintpaulsdansville@gmail.com

St. Pauls' Lutheran Church 21 Clara Barton Street Dansville, NY 14437
(585) 335-5260 saintpaulsdansville@gmail.com www.spdans.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
21 Clara Barton Street
Dansville, NY 14437

Our 2020 Council Contact Information

President	Tom Miller	607-247-4009	tmiller36@stny.rr.com
Vice President	Ann Myers	585-335-9352	myersah@gmail.com
Treasurer	Gerri Long	630-247-9959	gerriandken@gmail.com
Financial Secretary & Council Secretary	Penny Leven	585-519-3256	pennyforstpauls@gmail.com
Council Members	Henry Robin	585-335-6312	(no email)
	Heather Robin	585-519-5573	heatherlrclark@gmail.com

If you have any questions concerning St. Paul's, please contact one of our Council Members.



Christ In Our Home

April, May, June
2020

Available by
the mailboxes



April Birthdays

Joetta Miller
April 12
Kay Howe
April 30

Please contact the Church Office if we missed anyone.

Pastor's Message

Dear Saint Paul's Saints,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I sincerely hope this letter finds you well. As I write we all are in the second full week of "social distancing" and the first week of the "pause" order issued by the Governor. At home, we all are still adapting to this new reality, perhaps catching up on chores, and hopefully connecting with our family in helpful ways. At church, despite having cancelled all in-person activities onsite, *we have broadcast two worship services on Facebook* that have hopefully connected with most of you, and perhaps some people outside the church.

By now, everyone has wondered just how long this situation will continue. Truth be told, we cannot say. However, I can confirm that unless the governor rescinds his order banning gatherings and the bishop endorses a change in procedure, this suspension of activities will continue for several more weeks. This means that we will **not** have our customary Holy Week and Easter services at the church, *but we will find ways to bring Holy Week and Easter to you through online and other resources.*

In the meantime, we are still the church! We still have a mission to carry out even amidst social distancing and "lockdown." The world certainly needs good news right now, and it falls to the church to share it, whether online, in phone calls with friends, or in a positive attitude that fosters quicker recovery from this ordeal, and spiritually healthy communities going forward. As the governor put it in a recent news conference, we are "physically separated, but spiritually connected," and that goes double for the church.

So what can we do right now?

First: we can pray. Pray daily and throughout the day. Pray formally and casually. Pray alone and with your family. Pray for a speedy end to the pandemic, for the wellbeing of our medical professionals on the front lines of the battle, for our

leaders - that they may make wise decisions, for those who have lost their livelihoods in the shut-down, and for those who are sick.

Second: take time for Bible study. Read a chapter a day, or a few verses. There are online resources for daily reading, such as lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=A or you can pick and choose.

Third: call your family, friends, & neighbors. Check in with people. See if there are any needs, especially from those who are older or who have underlying conditions that make even a trip to the grocery store hazardous right now.

Fourth: look after your mental health. Take a hike. Read a book. Listen to your favorite music. Binge your favorite show. Find ways to have some fun, as we may be at this for a while yet.

Finally, I encourage you to remember to financially support your church if you are able to do so. Though operations are reduced, there are continuing expenses that we must meet, and missions in need of financial support. Your offering can connect you with this work even when you are largely confined to your home. That said, we do understand that the economic fallout will touch many, so we simply ask you to do what you can.

Council and I will be looking at additional ways to stay in touch. If you need to speak with me, *do not hesitate to contact me at (585) 447-3623, or email at rev.jet@gmail.com.*

Until then, I am

Faithfully Yours in Christ,



J. Eric Thompson
Pastor

Message from Tom Miller, Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been awhile since I've seen many of you, and I certainly miss our Sunday morning worship and fellowship. This is an interesting time in our history, but I'm sure we'll get through it. Although we're unable to meet in person on Sunday morning, [we have been providing a service streamed live on Facebook](#) for you to view and even comment on. These services are shared [via the St. Paul's Facebook page](#), and they're saved so you can view them at your convenience. I hope these services provide a level of comfort and familiarity during these difficult times. Our thanks to Pastor Eric for championing this effort. His sermons have provided unique perspective on what many of us are experiencing. Thanks, also, to Henry for providing wonderful music and to Marilyn and Jocelyn for their support. Pastor Eric has also provided additional live streamed content to the church Facebook page that I would invite you to watch.

We will continue to provide some level of a live streamed service moving forward, though based on regulations, we may need to adjust the number of people involved. I encourage your continued support of our church community through your pledged contributions. Your support is greatly appreciated helping us to keep moving forward as we transition back to live Sunday church services once we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, [if you would like to mail your offering to the church](#), the address is:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
21 Clara Barton Street
Dansville, NY 14437

You may also place your offering in the church mailbox on the side of the building.

Please remember to maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing and to wash your hands regularly. I look forward to the time when we're all able to return to church, celebrate life, and give thanks to the Lord our God.

Sincerely,
Tom Miller
Council President