



2020

518 463-0571

St. Paul's News

475 State Street Albany, New York 12203

SEVERAL OF THE REPORTS THAT WERE GIVEN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ARE IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE LET ALL OUR MEMBERS KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE WORKINGS AT ST. PAUL'S

Vicar Annual Report

This report does not represent a full calendar year, but summarizes the work accomplished since June 23, 2019.

As a student of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, I am under supervision until June 22, 2020. Pastor Mark Mueller is serving as my direct supervisor. We schedule bi-weekly meetings at the least, and regularly communicate to address issues, offer advice, and serve as my mentor. In addition, the seminary requires that I complete an Evangelism Module. For this, I have submitted a grant request to Lutheran Crusader Fund asking for financial assistance to make sure we can provide a full lunch each Sunday following worship. The goal is to coordinate with First Lutheran's Overflow Shelter and invite those with a need to enjoy worship with us and a hot meal to follow. There is no organization in Albany that offers a hot meal on Sunday's.

Weekly, I prepare the worship service, coordinating with Arnold Seim and Diane Kingston. I select hymns, write a sermon, and have brought back the weekly Children's Message. After coffee hour I lead the Adult Bible class, which has worked through the 3 letters from John and part of Mark. The last Sunday of every month Deacon James Roberts leads the Adult Bible class so that I can lead the Confirmation class. We currently have 5 students and Deacon James has done an admirable job instructing them about Lutheran Doctrine and introducing them to Scripture. On Pentecost we hope to confirm 4 of them. Chelsea Dorner provides a weekly Sunday School offering for the children which is an introduction to Bible stories and characters.

It is my goal to reach each of our shut-ins monthly. I have been thankful to hear news of anyone who enters the hospital and have visited each person. Please remember to let myself or the church office know if you find yourself or a family member in the hospital. I have now visited almost every worshipping member and have plans to meet with everyone outside of worship before the vicarage year is finished.

After much discussion we have asked the One Day At A Time group to find a new home. The wear and tear they were putting on the building was becoming a bit much, and we did not have the proper system in place to adequately keep oversight of their group. We found doors were left perched open on several occasions at night.

We restructured the Building Usage Agreement with Ryder House Kitchen to give more concise days and times for his cooking, as well as bring his "rent" to a more appropriate level. We are looking for more "renters".

With regard to the parapet wall's damage, after being denied our insurance claim we hired our own structural engineer to write a report of the damage. His report largely echoed that of our insurance and it became clear that the slow seepage of water over time was not something that we were covered for. In response, I have been working with the Bishop to come up with a solution. He has agreed to pay for a consultant to come in and work with us on this issue, as well as the future direction of our worshipping community. The Council of Church Advisors is generating an estimate to fix the parapet wall, as well as some other issues our building is facing.

We held Advent worship services with our sister congregation, St. Matthew Lutheran, and plan to hold joint Lenten services in 2020. We are in the beginning stages of discussing shared ministry moving forward, including everything from a shared pastor to a full merger. Our leadership teams have met together twice now and had productive conversation. We will meet together again in early March, 2020 to discuss further.

Though I cannot legally marry anyone as a Vicar, I was asked to provide a wedding service in celebration of the union between William Lentsch and Elissa Owens.

There were no births and no baptisms in 2019.

Vicar Jim Dorner

FLOWERS FOR EASTER



IT IS TIME TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR OUR ALTAR FOR EASTER SUNDAY.

AVAILABLE ARE:

LILIES
MUMS
AZALEAS
HYACINTH

PLEASE SEE FRANCES VANACKER TO PLACE YOUR ORDER OR
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 518.463.0571.

St. Paul's Cleaning Ministry

Many thanks to Sheryl Baum, Lisa & Steve Brickman, Tom Calamaras & Sylvia Cukan who cleaned the stove, the hood, washed cabinets, countertops, the refrigerator inside & out and all the stainless steel in the kitchen. Good job folks!

We will continue to tidy and clean at St. Paul's in March, please join us on **Saturday, March 21**, 8:30-10:30 am, as we tackle the storage room at St. Paul's.

In early April, our efforts will be concentrated on the narthex, entrances and the Western Avenue & State Street outside steps, sidewalks and lawn – weather permitting, in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. We hope you can join us for an hour or two on **Saturday, April 11**.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

We will worship each Wednesday during Lent with our friends at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on 75 Whitehall Road I in Albany.



A soup supper will be served at 5:45 and our meditation will be at 6:30 PM. Enter the church from the rear of the building. There is some parking available in the back.

The themes for each week's meditation are:

"40 Days With Jesus And His Names"

March 4th - The Son of God

March 11th - The Son of Man

March 18th - The Messiah

March 25th - The Light of the World

April 1st - The Resurrection and the Life

Shelter Dinners

Thank you, thank you, thank you Lori & Gabi Seim for preparing & delivering a ham - with all the fixings - dinner to the homeless shelter at First Lutheran in early February! It was much appreciated by the people who rely on the shelter & food provided by the local community.

**SHELTER
DINNER**



Our next scheduled dinner is on **Tuesday, March 31**, and although several people have already signed-up to prepare food for the dinner when this article was written, no one has yet stepped forward to coordinate the volunteers and make sure the meal is delivered to the shelter. Could you help with this? The meal can be delivered to the First Lutheran church office earlier in the day (anytime before 4:00 PM) or it can be delivered directly to the shelter between 5:00 - 6 PM. Any questions, please contact Sheryl Baum or the church office. Thank you.

DEACON'S REPORT 2018

I have continued with the visitation schedule that Pastor Gruenwald set me on. I visit several people once and many others on a need basis

As of 02-19-2019 I have accumulated 140.25 hours towards the 200 total hours needed to finish the service hours requirement of the program.

We are expected to complete 150 hours of this service time within 18 months from the day we graduate/ finish the academic part of the program. I am still on track to finish my hours within the time frame I was provided. Pastor Albrichtsens, Pastor Ware, and I have been in communication via e-mail throughout the process.

Regards,

James R. Roberts

SPLC Voter's Meeting-Sunday, February 24, 2019 SPLC Hospitality Report

1. Generosity Box donations:

- collected donations for 2017 \$584
- collected donations for 2018 \$1029*

2. Cost of food/supplies not covered by donations from the Generosity box or the bringing in of supplies from the bulletin board in the back of the church:

- \$959 for 2018 which averages out to @\$80 per month.

Due to your faithful monetary contributions and fulfilling of the supply cards this number has dramatically decreased from 2017 where this 'shortage' was on average @\$268 per month. This is important to note as there is not a line item in our yearly budget for food, coffee, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, etc. This couldn't be done without all of your contributions and support (so I hope that means that you're enjoying "the menu" each week)!

3. CHALLENGE for 2019-to have ALL of the requested slots for food/kitchen cleaning chores to be filled in on Sign-Up Genius for the remainder of this year! This particular goal has not been reached in ANY given month since this began in 2017! AND I BELIEVE that we can do this! Sign-up Genius can now be accessed monthly through your personal email (if you are on the church's email list) OR by going onto our church website and clicking on the link located on the front page!! Help us reach our 2019 budget goals by making the hospitality 'deficit' *disappear!!!!*
(www.stpaulsalbanyny.com)

4. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please reach out to me via email at: Tharrisal19@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted by Tina Harris

*in 2017, on average the cash donations for food/supplies were @\$49 per month and in 2018 that number increased to an average of @\$86 per month-thank you!!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Annual Voters Meeting
February 23, 2020
ELDERS REPORT

Dear Congregational Members,

The Board of Elders met during 2019 and discussed several topics relative to the spiritual health of the church and its members. In 2019, the Elders were comprised of the following persons:

1. James Dorner – Vicar
2. Alan Alexander – Chief Elder
3. James Roberts – Deacon and Elder
4. Chris Anderson – Elder
5. Zwe Ushe - Elder

The Elders discussed the following topics and issues in 2019:

- Worship planning and content
- Worship coverage and schedule
- Spiritual health of the congregation
- Pakistani Ministry
- Circuit, District, and Synodical issues
- Identifying those with specific needs and how best to help them
- Visitation of sick and shut in

The Elders have been active in the spiritual leadership of the congregation during the pastoral vacancy period and have served on the Call Committee. In 2019, we also assisted our former interim Pastor, Rev. Dr. Steven Ware and our current Vicar, James Dorner, during our worship services and with visitation of the sick. During 2019, the Elders undertook an active visitation initiative. This initiative has been mostly handled by Vicar James Dorner and Deacon James Roberts.

Respectively Submitted by:

Alan Alexander
Chief Elder

WORSHIP PLANNING COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

The Worship Planning Committee which consists of Vicar Jim, Arnold Seim, and I have worked together to make our worship together to be interesting and run smoothly.



The first half of 2019 was with Pastor Ware and services were conducted using setting 2 in the Lutheran Service Book. Holy Week and Easter Services were held.

Pr. Ware led the Maundy Thursday service and Deacon James Roberts led the Good Friday Worship. Easter Sunrise and Festival worship were both well attended.

After Vicar Jim arrived, we began using both Setting 1 and 2 during worship – rotating them from week to week. After a few observations, it was decided that we would use one setting for a period of time and then change to another. Vicar Jim has been selecting hymns each week to accompany the lessons and sermon topics.

Our Christmas Eve worship was well attended and meaningful to all who were present. Christmas Day was a simple service for those in attendance. Since Christmas, we have been using Setting 3 in the LSB. This is the “old” setting which many of us remember from years ago.

For the Lenten season, we will be using Setting 1 (without the hymn of praise).

Our Lenten journey will begin on Ash Wednesday with a service here at St. Paul’s with our friends at St. Matthew. Our Wednesday evening Lenten Services will be held at St. Matthew with a soup supper at 5:45 and service at 6:30.

Plans are in the works for Easter and the Pentecost season. If anyone has any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact Vicar Jim, Arnold, or myself.

Diane Kingston
Worship

CHURCH PROPERTIES REPORT

We have worked on many projects this past year and have compiled a list of things that need to be done in the near future.

We are waiting for the inspection report and structural engineer report.

Special thanks to Andrew VanAcker for tarping the parapet wall and avoiding further damage.

Thanks to Thom Kingston for having a plumber clear the drain at the boiler room entrance on State Street.

We should always thank our sexton, Craig Jones, for snow/ice detail and general cleaning of the church.

Mark Simmons
Andrew VanAcker
Church Properties

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ST. PAUL'S

We have several quite easy opportunities to help raise funds for St. Paul's Here are some:

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS



Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members with Choice Dollars available have until **March 31, 2020** to direct any remaining 2019 Choice Dollars. Help support St. Paul's or the organization of your choice!

Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Don't let Choice Dollars expire!

amazon

smile

AMAZON SMILES

Have you signed up for Amazo Smiles?

Just sign up with St. Paul's under Amazon Smiles

When you make a purchase through Amazon Smiles, St. Paul's earns a percentage



BOTTLE RETURN

Keep bringing those empty bottles in.

Last year we collected over \$500 for St. Paul's

HOFFMAN'S CAR WASH

We all need clean cars!

Just log in to www.HoffmanHelpingHands.com/fundraising/stpauls

Purchase your Hoffman Car Wash Tickets (either exterior or full service)

St. Paul's gets 50% of the carwash ticket price!!





March

- 1. SUE SHELDON
- 4. ROSILY DAVID
- 15. VIOLA STEVENS
- 20. ALYSSA MCCOY
- 27. SHAREN DOMBROWSKI
- 28. JAMES WELTER
- SUSAN MIKHA
- 29. JEAN MULLIGAN
- TSHEPO SIMPSON

REMINDERS

Check the board in the back of the church each week for items needed to be purchased

Next cleaning Saturday—March 21, 8:30—10:30. Come when you can, leave when you must!

**DON'T FORGET TO SET
YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ON
MARCH 7th. SPRING IS
COMING!!**



ELDER
Chris Anderson

There are two openings for Altar Committee for March 15 and 22.. Please see Frances Van Acker or call the church office if you can help either of those Sundays.

| DATE | FLOWERS | SERVICE STEWARD | COMMUNION ASSISTANT | ALTAR |
|------|--|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 3/1 | Lori Seim | Andrew Van Acker | Tina Harris | Linda and Danielle Calamaras |
| 3/8 | Sharen and Steve Dombrowski in memory of Dad, Fred Dascher | Andrew Van Acker | Tina Harris | Linda and Danielle Calamaras |
| 3/15 | Ophelia Ameghashie for Mom's birthday. | Mark Simmons | Diane Kingston | |
| 3/22 | The Kingstons for Alyssa McCoy's Birthday | Mark Simmons | Diane Kingston | |
| 3/29 | OPEN | Sheryl Baum | Noor Javed | Alida Earl and Dina Lee |