

The South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish

THE MESSENGER - DECEMBER 2022

Contact Info:



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Pastor's Blog:

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Worship Sundays at 10am

Congregations

St. Matthew, Mildmay

St. Paul, Neustadt

St. Paul's Normanby



Rocket Youth Group

**1st & 3rd Friday of the Month
7:00pm at St. Paul's Neustadt**



Rocket Youth Group

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear friends in Christ,

It seems to me that the year has sped by incredibly quickly, so I went through some photos to remind myself about the year.

- I had completely forgotten that we were forced to begin the year without gathering together – again! I was so very disappointed.
- And we had no sooner begun to worship together again when we had that area power shut-down. Do you remember that worship service? It was rather unique and fun with lanterns (thanks Gale) and we sang only favorite hymns.
- 6 beautiful young people were confirmed with the congregation in attendance!
- 3 church councils were formed and installed (finally - after I forgot to install one)
- The Bishop's retreat was held in person for the first time since 2019

Summer brought the return of a former event and a new activity:

- the summer picnic at the farm of Jim and Joyce Rody – my first. It was a beautiful service with generous donations made toward our sponsored family. Lunch was good even though we had to hold off on a pot-luck picnic.
- A new activity this summer was the garden tour Bible Study. Lovely gardens and nature – including chipmunks- and also great conversation. Strong bonds of friendship were formed in that group.

Then the fall activities began to fall into place

- Soup lunch for people in Ukraine
- Confirmation class resumed
- and here we are entering in to the journey of Advent. It began with a large number of candles remembering those saints who left us this year. It was beautiful to share that time with the bereaved families in church that day.

This year my faith has been stretched into new learnings and new questions, and I hope yours has been as well. I'm filled with gratitude for those who took the challenge to write a reflection for the Advent series and for those who reach out with reactions upon reading the devotions.

It is also joyful to see so many of you at worship each week. Your presence is truly a blessing to all who gather. We are family. We are the body of Christ. We are blessed to be on this journey together. Peace be with you as we anticipate Christmas and a new year.

Pastor Pam

SERVICES ARE NOW IN PERSON

You can continue to join us virtually as follows

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89297530585?pwd=MjIYQnlYcW5DSytDMHVvVXJDdXU0Zz09>

Or dial in 1 647 374 4685 or 1 647 558 0588 Canada Meeting ID: 892 9753 0585 Passcode: 145425

What's Been Happening in the Parish

**All Saints
Sunday Service**
... enjoying snacks
following worship



Upcoming Events

Enjoy Social Time
At Our
Coffee Luncheons
Join St. Paul's
Normanby
after their services,
at the Neustadt
Community Center
We look forward to
seeing you there!

Donations welcome in
support of the Salvation
Army Food Bank



Annual Reports in the New Year - Reminder

With the year coming to a close, it is time to start thinking about the content to include in our 2022 annual reports.

The Lutheran Community Ministry
Invites You To Experience

THE CHRISTMAS GOODIE WALK



Come and enjoy coffee,
tea and hot chocolate



St. Paul Lutheran Church



379 Adam St.
Neustadt, OR



Saturday December 3rd, 2022
1pm to 4pm



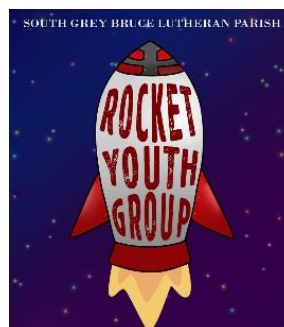
Proceeds to The Rocket Youth Group
to attend Clay 2023

Rocket Youth Group

The Rocket Youth Group will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Friday night of the month at 7:00 pm.

Check out their Facebook page ...
"The Rocket Youth Group"

for information and details on upcoming events for the Youth Group.



Service of Lessons and Carols

At St. Peter's, Neustadt

Sunday December 4th, 2022
at 2:30 P.M.

Featuring Special Music by
Organist Spencer Bristow

Everyone is Welcome

Come and also check out the church window sills decorated with a Christmas Carol Theme.



The Colours of The Church Year

I know some of you have noticed that twice in November the colour white was used as the seasonal colour: On All Saints Sunday (Nov 6) and on the Sunday celebrating the Reign of Christ (Nov 20).

White symbolizes Christ, his life, death and resurrection. When we see white on the altar and when the pastor's robes are white, our thoughts turn to Christ. On these Sundays, we also light the Christ Candle – the large one with the Chi Rho (PX) and the year embossed on it.



This year I was finally able to robe in a white chasuble - an ordination gift. Arranging to get that garment during the pandemic closures took quite a long time, but this year it finally arrived.

The chasuble is worn when Holy Communion is celebrated and we might think that the garment has symbolic meaning - (because it is church, we expect something theological or symbolic) but the truth is, like any work uniform, it just is what it is.

For me it feels like fancy party clothes that are worn for a special celebration. So this is a photo of my new white chasuble.



Thanks to my family for this gift.

Thanks for your curiosity about this liturgical colour.



Christmas is right around the corner. Winter is definitely not my favourite season, but having Christmas makes it more palatable and gets me one month closer to my favourite season; summer. This can be a stressful time, as it is every year it seems with so much to do and so much to prepare. I must admit that shopping online certainly has its advantages in terms of saving time, shopping from my couch. It's exciting as the deliveries start coming, almost every day, sometimes more than one in a day 😊. Then there's Barry, who often finds the packages on the front porch, or in the mailbox. Sometimes he'll say 'What's this'. I think to myself, how can he not know?...Men! I just reply, 'Christmas'. He might reply with an 'oh' or just say nothing. We are pretty traditional in our spousal roles. Sometimes I refer to our responsibilities around home being split as follows: I do the pink jobs and he does the blue jobs. So, I do the Christmas shopping and he shovels the porches and walkways. Of course, my job is very important, but his is important too at this time of year, given the delivery trucks are coming and going and the drivers are up and down the sidewalk, leaving those parcels on the front porch. We need them to arrive safely.

For me when life is busy, I find a little humor can help keep the stress at bay and maybe bring a little joy to others. So here is a Christmas funny I'll share hoping it does the same for you:

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs.

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE... I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO SWITCH... I PRAY FOR A NEW CELL PHONE..."
His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!" 😊 😊 😊

Wishing you and yours all the joys of the season! Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. I will see you in January.

Joanne Tully ~ tully.joanne@gmail.com