

The South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish

THE MESSENGER - JULY & AUGUST 2023

Contact Info:



Pastor Pamela McNeil

Email:

sgblparish@gmail.com

pam_mcneil@hotmail.com

Cell: 226-751-6398

Pastor's Blog:

www.sweetlutheran.com

Worship Sundays at 10am

Congregations

St. Matthew, Mildmay

St. Paul, Neustadt

St. Paul's Normanby



**Friday Night Church
School Resumes
September 15.
Rocket Group
Continues Through
The Summer**

From the Pastor's desk: For this newsletter I relinquish my space to the confirmation class. We were studying Paul's letters and the task was for us to write a 'Paul Style letter' to the congregation. (A wise person declared that listening to young people keeps our minds agile) - so here are words from the parish youth, in the style of the Apostle Paul:

To the people of South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish:

The confirmation class greets you and wishes you every good blessing. We give thanks for your prayers as we gathered to study the Bible and the history of the Lutheran Church. Your support encourages us.

We are thankful for the new things which are being done in our worship together: hearing the pastor sing and the congregation repeat makes it easy for some of us who don't know all of the hymns you use. We also wondered about the Spanish words in some of the music, but learned that our church is alive in many different places and languages. That encourages us.

We note that it is sometimes difficult to know where to follow along with the words of the service - front of the book, back of the book, different books. We need to think about how to make that easier.

We also encourage the grown-ups not to hesitate to have conversations about uncomfortable things which are important in our world today. Some topics are: seeking knowledge about indigenous culture; gender and marriage conversation; including diverse groups in our gatherings; and especially pursuing training to be more equitable, inclusive and accessible as a church community. The church needs to be informed and active in these areas so that unjust ways are corrected.

We had a lot of fun hearing some of our favorite Christian music during our confirmation service. Could we use that kind of music more often? We all have our favorite and treasured songs. You might like to learn some of our favorites. (that would encourage us too)

Thankyou for listening to our thoughts, and again, we are grateful for your support. God bless you and keep God's church strong and its members faithful.

Sincerely, *The confirmation class.*

SERVICES ARE NOW IN PERSON

You can continue to join us virtually as follows

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81438390748?pwd=TlJJaFFhNHdsNTIRNE1icm1UOFVzZz09>

Or dial in 1 647 374 4685 or 1 647 558 0588 Canada Meeting ID: 814 3839 0748 Passcode: 601772

Services can be accessed at www.sweetlutheran.com

Upcoming Events

Pastor Paul Langohr Memorial Scholarship

The Pastor Paul Langohr Memorial Scholarship will be available again this year, to young people from our three congregations who are moving into post-secondary education.

Applications can be accessed by email from Glenn Jacques at dgjacques1@hotmail.com or through your congregational council. The deadline for applications to be returned to Parish Working Group for consideration is July 31st, 2023.



For more information
Please contact Shirley Luedke – 519-367-2621

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-CARRICK TOWNSHIP

(1862 – 2016)

Cemetery Memorial Gathering
“A TIME TO GET TOGETHER”
NEUSTADT LIONS PARK
SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023
2:00 PM

**PASTOR RICHARD HOLM &
THE COUNTRY MISHAPS
WILL PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT**

SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED
Everyone is Welcome

FREE WILL OFFERING - Payable to –
ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-CARRICK TOWNSHIP

Money is used for **the up keep of the cemetery**
TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED

Donations can be mailed to our Seretary–Treasurer
Sharon Riley Strucke, 736 Conc. 12E
R. R. 5 Mildmay, Ontario N0G 2J0
Email – strucke3@wightman.ca

St. Paul's Normanby Cemetery Decoration Service



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

St Paul Normanby Cemetery Decoration Service

Sunday, August 13, 2:30pm,
Neustadt Community Centre

Pastor Catharine House will
lead the service.
Lunch provided.

Carrick Camp Summer Concert Series

July Concert Series

July 2, 7pm, Sunday
New Covenant Way

July 9, 7pm, Sunday
Vicount Vocal Harmony

July 16, 7pm, Sunday
The Jantzi Family Trio

July 23, 7pm, Sunday
The Watchmen

July 30, 7pm Sunday
Living Hope Gospel Group

August Concert Series

August 6, 7pm, Sunday
Surrendered

August 13, 7pm, Sunday
The Master's Four

August 20, 7pm, Sunday
Vocal Legacy

.....
August 27, 7pm, Sunday
SEASON FINALE
The Torchmen
.....

The 2023 potato patch has
been planted. Harvest will take
place in the fall.

Thank you to Darlene Divers
for the pic!



What's Been Happening in the Parish

Friday Night Church School Wrap-Up!

It was a super fun session at Friday Night Church School, and we give special thanks to the leaders: **Mark and Tina Diebel, Darlene Divers** and from Trinity Ayton, **Sharon Machina**. Their commitment to the youth in our community is a blessing. Thankyou Good Servants! The final session saw the young students exploring the theology and experiencing the joy of the **Holy Spirit** through a story, kite making and parachute games. It concluded with a cooling off session with blue and red freezies! Yumm



Meanwhile, the Rocket Youth Group worked on a servant project: tying a quilt. Some parts of the job were easier than other parts, but everyone gave it their best effort, and the result is beautiful. The quilt was definitely blessed with much laughter! Thanks to **Ruthie May Rehkopf** for piecing together the quilt top.



The **youngest** of the Friday Night gathering just hung out- doing what they do best -being cute. Best wishes to all for a fun summer. Church School will gather again in the fall. Rocket youth group will meet again to prepare for the Youth Gathering in August.



Lutheran Area Picnic

Sunday, June 25 was the Lutheran area picnic. 86 people attended from the 4 Lutheran congregations in our neighbourhood: St Paul's Normanby; St Peter's Neustadt; St Paul Neustadt; and St Matthew Mildmay.

The sermon was shared by Pastor Fred Ludolph and it was also heard by the people of St Matthew Hanover earlier that morning. A great message on the characteristics of the Saints - Peter and Paul, whose feast we celebrated today.



Thank you to Marlene Dietz for Sharing the Following:

Refugee Resettlement | A rural-urban partnership

“When you open yourself to something new, God will grab it by the tail,” says Pamela McNeil, pastor of the South Grey Bruce Parish in Ontario. The three congregations under her leadership have formed a refugee sponsorship partnership with Resurrection Lutheran Church in Halifax, N.S.

“We know resources are limited in rural communities, so bringing a refugee family here, well, it could be difficult for them to adjust,” says McNeil. “That’s the beauty of the arrangement with Halifax. The family will come to Halifax, and we will provide the funding.”

The three Ontario churches have committed to raising \$27,000–\$30,000 over three years and the Halifax church will welcome the family and help them get settled when they arrive. So far, the South Grey Bruce parish has raised close to \$20,000.

“It’s all come from donations from the congregations,” she says. “We haven’t had any fundraisers with the public yet because of COVID-19.”

The idea for the partnership came from McNeil’s seminary placement at the Halifax church. Resurrection Lutheran Church already had a dedicated ministry to refugees in place when she arrived. They had welcomed families from Ethiopia and Eritrea. Those families met other newcomers and invited them to come to church to practice their English.

“They just started coming,” recalls McNeil. “We had people from all over the world coming. And I witnessed the richness that came to the congregation through them.”

Arriving at her new parish, McNeil learned the congregations had been exploring what it means to be one in the body of Christ. Over the years they had each seen attendance wane as families moved to larger centres for work and education opportunities—a familiar story in rural life. They had their own worship spaces that they were attached to, but knew they needed to collaborate to keep going.

“To be one doesn’t necessarily mean you have to sell your building and meet in one space,” says McNeil. “So, I presented the idea for a refugee sponsorship partnership, and they were on board.”

It was a relatively easy ‘yes’ for the members of the three congregations — many of whom had refugee stories in their own families.

“You’ll find that in many Lutheran churches,” says McNeil. “My mom came to Canada in the 1950s as a refugee from Ukraine. It was the Lutheran church that organized that. Like the congregation in Halifax, and the congregations here, my heart is for refugees because of my mom’s experience.”

Asked what she would say to other congregations who are considering refugee sponsorship, McNeil says go for it.

“Even if you are in an area that is not ideal for a new family to come, find partners. There are congregations in bigger centres. You’ll have a friendship with a new congregation and with the refugee family arriving. When you open to living like Christ, God will surprise in ways you can’t imagine.”



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

400-185 Carlton Street,
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J1
204.694.5602 or 1.800.661.2597
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CLWR is a registered Canadian charity
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Where are they today?

This has been a fun series to work on, and it has been a joy to discover so many young people who are living their faith in unique ways. The first recipient in this series is now a successful veterinarian, and it is an interesting coincidence that the last person we meet at this time is on the long and challenging path to become a veterinarian as well.

Jillian Waechter

Jillian Waechter received a scholarship from the parish when I first arrived here, just before the pandemic changed life as we knew it.



Jillian has been studying in the Zoology program at the University of Guelph, completing her first year completely on line. She is now approaching the end of her third year, and is on The Dean's List. "Well done, Jillian!" This summer Jillian will be a puppy raiser for Partners with Paws, a non-profit charity which funds the training of psychiatric service dogs to help rebuild the lives of those struggling with mental health illness.

As part of her 4th year studies, she has been selected to be part of a team of 22 young people from Ontario who will be doing field work in Tanzania. This is an amazing accomplishment, and while there she will develop her thesis, which includes research and an oral presentation. Jillian, send us some photos of your adventures there, please!

Jillian will also be researching schools and applying for veterinarian programs in Canada when she finishes her zoology degree. The competition to get into this program is quite challenging, I've been told. Jillian, we are all rooting for you and wish you the best as you study and learn to help take care of the world's precious creatures. Let your light shine in glory to God. We hold you in prayer.

Thank you to everyone who is able to make a donation toward the Pastor Paul Scholarship. We are blessed by the beautiful young people in our parish. I'm sure there are others who have not been highlighted in this series. We need to catch up with all of our young people. Please contact a member of the council or Pastor Pam if a young person in your family would like to share their story. We hold each of our young people in God's care.

Those cherry Tomatoes!



FICTION: I always plant them with the happy dream of strolling through the garden and picking a few of those lovely, multi-coloured cherry tomatoes, and popping them in my mouth – sweet and warm from the lovely sun. (that happens once!)

FACT: They grow out of control and millions of them seem to line every available surface in my kitchen, waiting for that salad which I never get around to making!

SOLUTION: This is a variation on a recipe given to me by Linda Yenssen. I make it at various times throughout the summer, and freeze in pint size jars to use during the winter for a ‘true’ tomato flavour. Thaw and toss with hot pasta; add to a salad that calls for tomato; spread over cooked chicken or fish; use on toasted garlic bread for a quick side or appetizer.

Recipe: (loosely adjust ingredients based on the quantity of tomatoes)

5 cups cherry tomatoes - sliced in half

4 cloves garlic, smashed

3 tbsp good quality oil – canola or olive

3 tbsp balsamic vinegar-I prefer fruit flavoured (cherry, or blueberry from Southampton)

¼ tsp black pepper

Chopped fresh basil

Toss ingredients together and place a parchment lined cookie sheet. Roast for at least 15 minutes or until tender.

Use some right away – you will have to because the aroma is soooo very wonderful.

Spoon into sterilized pint jars and freeze. The mixture thaws fairly quickly on the counter or heat for a minute in the microwave. This can be a fast treat or meal for busy days during the winter.

Added bonus- your counter won't have piles of guilt producing cherry tomatoes all summer long!

Best summer adventures to you! (by the way – we may need help later on – our garden neighbour has 8 thriving zucchini plants – oh nooooo!)

Pastor Pam



Not sure about in your neck of the woods, but the skies sure have been hazy as of late. It's in part due to the wildfires burning in Northern Quebec. This week the Tully's and the Benders are enjoying our yearly get away to a Cottage in the Kawarthas. The skies have been quite hazy again, yesterday and today, as I finalize this newsletter. We are in the Kawarthas which is close to where Barry and I live, but a longer drive for Mom, Dad and Mike and his family. We have been doing this every summer for more than 10 summers.

Here are a few of my favourite memories having this time away with my family,

- Maddy and Connor playing Xbox together at a very young age
- The three 'grandchildren' sleeping together in one room
- Taking the kids tubing behind our bow rider
- Mike being pulled over by the lake OPP twice in the same day – no charges, just funny that he barely knew how to drive a boat at the time,
- A boat ride with everyone, heading to a lakeside restaurant either in Bobcaygeon, Buckhorn or Young's Point
- The kids actually catching fish when putting their poles in the water
- Campfires with s'mores – although that is out of the question this year with the wildfires and the burn ban
- Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream Lots and lots of Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream
- And so many more ...

Family times are precious, and they can be short. I am glad that we at least get one day in the summer to have all generations and some of their partners together. I do hope the same is true for you and you can make some special summer memories with the ones you love. And now, I'm signing off for the summer. Yippee!!! See you in September!