

THE MESSENGER

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

147 Park Avenue, Amityville, New York 11701

Church Phone: 631-264-0763; e-mail: amityluther@verizon.net

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Reverend David W. Anglin, Pastor

Reverend Herbert M. Kern, Assisting Minister

Mr. David Thomas, DELTO Vicar

Mr. Phil Johnson & Mr. Steve McDonald, Deacons

Mr. Russell Brand, Director of Music

St. Paul's Website: stpaulsamityville.com

Summer Services: Sun. at 9:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 8 p.m.; Contemporary Services: Wed. at 7:30 p.m. and Sat. at 6:30 p.m.

VOLUME 90--NO. 7

JULY 2019

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR:

A Lutheran Star Is Born

One of the most popular recent movies was "A Star Is Born," with Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper. It's amazing to think that this is the *fourth* time this story has been brought to the screen. I don't think that's a record—"Dracula" has certainly been done more than four times. Still, it shows that this is an enduring story.

Another tale that has landed on the screen four times is the 1922 story "The Day of Atonement" by Samson Raphaelson. If you don't recognize the title, that's because the four movies used the title of the stage play that Raphaelson turned his story into: "The Jazz Singer."

The story is that of Jackie Rabinowitz, alias Jack Robin, a Jewish cantor's son who is drawn toward popular music rather than Hebrew liturgical chant. For 10 generations his ancestors had served as cantors—but he sees the stage and the theater, not the synagogue, as the appropriate venue for his singing talent. This causes a rift with his father, who disowns Jack. (The rift is deepened when Jack gets involved with a Gentile woman). After years of alienation, Jack's father ends up on his deathbed, unable to sing the "Kol Nidre" in the Yom Kippur service. Jack gives up a career-making opening night on Broadway to fill in for his father in the Day of Atonement service.

The four films spawned by this story have starred Al Jolson, Jerry Lewis, Danny Thomas and Neil Diamond. There are many variations—in the original story, the father dies before the Yom Kippur service; in others he dies during the Yom Kippur service. In the Neil Diamond version, the dad survives and attends one of his son’s secular concerts! Interestingly, in the original story, the crowds that would have been at Jack’s Broadway opening pack the synagogue instead—a clergyman’s dream, I must say!

It dawned on me recently how similar this story is to a real-life situation that happened in our own church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In our circles, in the early 20th century, there also was a young man who seemingly forsook the sacred for the secular.

It was not the theater that lured this young man away from a holy calling—it was the baseball diamond. The young man was the son of a prominent pastor. His dad, the Rev. Philip Wambsganns, laid the cornerstone for the Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and founded the Lutheran Deaconess Association. And his son Bill was all set to follow in his father’s footsteps and enter the Holy Ministry. Bill enrolled at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to prepare. But Bill had an awesome talent for baseball. The Cleveland Indians offered him a contract to play the game professionally.

Bill was torn. If he accepted the offer from the Indians, would he be forsaking his God? If he traded the sanctuary for the baseball diamond, would he be sinning against Christ? Bill talked with his father. And here’s where the story of Bill Wambsganns diverged from that of the fictional Jack Robin: his father said he would support any decision that Bill made. He would not disown him if he chose baseball over ordained ministry. All good, honest work is work done for God. It was God who gave Bill the talent to play baseball. How could it dishonor God if Bill used that talent?

This is a basic Lutheran principle that is usually called “vocation.” Every worthwhile calling is Godly. One can serve God in any honest profession. **“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might,”** the Scriptures tell us (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Being a pastor is not inherently better than driving a truck, waiting on tables—or playing second base. All work, at a job or even at home, is done for God, and glorifies God. (Think of this the next time you take out the garbage or wash the dishes!) Certainly we need the church to bring to us the forgiveness of sins that Jesus purchased on the Cross, to give us strength for our daily lives, to enable us to be hopeful, loving

people. The pastor's work is sacred. But we also need the farmer, the auto mechanic, the plumber, the teacher, the police officer, the mail carrier, the lawn caretaker...to help us with other important aspects of our lives. All honest work is sacred.

What happened to Bill Wambsganss, who left the seminary to pursue professional baseball with the Cleveland Indians? You probably know if you're a baseball fan...or if you've ever played Trivial Pursuit. (He is the answer to a question.) Wambsganss holds a record that will likely never be broken. In the fifth game of the 1920 World Series against the Brooklyn Robins (later renamed the Dodgers), Wambsganss executed the only unassisted triple play in World Series history. Playing second base, he caught a batted ball in the air for one out, stepped on second base for a second out, and tagged the runner coming in from first for the third out. (Game five in 1920 was a very special game! Along with the triple play, there were two other firsts--the first grand slam, and the first home run ever hit by a pitcher, in a World Series game).

Wambsganss may have turned away from ordained ministry, but did not turn away from God. He remained involved in church throughout his life.

Christian musicians like U-2 and Bob Dylan are criticized for not performing enough religious music. I think of another Missouri Synod Lutheran, Lyle Lovett, who also doesn't sing much religious music (but he does have a wonderful recording of Blessed Martin Luther's "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"). I suspect that they might cite something like the Lutheran concept of vocation in their defense. Actually, even Jack Robin seemed to express this concept when, in one of the "Jazz Singer" films, he said: "Music sung in a theater is as honorable as music sung in a synagogue!"

All honest work is done for God. Our church's namesake, St. Paul, supported himself as a tentmaker. He honored God just as much with a well-made tent as he did in his preaching. **"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might"!**



God loves you and so do I!

Pastor David W. Anglin

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY!

2nd: Betsy Anderson; Glenn Bernius; David Johnson; Derek Thole; and Sarah White

3rd: Elizabeth Mazzella

4th: Herb Jaklitsch and Gail Maresca

5th: Sue Guarnieri

6th: David Hayle; Jabari Kaine; and Kathy Marren

7th: Judy Scherer

8th: Sandra Cusano and Bonnie Fogarty

9th: Justin Holzwarth Jr. and Michael Wolfert

10th: Leigh Silveira

11th: Sue Ruiz

14th: Kyle Allocca

16th: Kristen Duryea

17th: Louis Lafayette and Kristen Lipani

18th: Leslie Lafayette; Dottie McMillin; and Jessica Weber

19th: Mara Thole

20th: Earline Jefferson

22nd: Barbara Holzwarth

23rd: Diane Lindstrom

24th: Kathy Vrooman

25th: Kathryn Vahldieck

26th: Maris Cregan

30th: Lizabeth Liers

31st: Henrietta Erlwein and Joy Milonas

And a belated happy birthday to
Brooke Mollica, who officially became a
teenager on June 14!



SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE THIS MONTH

Communion Assistants:

Saturdays–

July 6: Steve McDonald

July 13: Bob Mowad

July 20: Louis Lafayette

July 27: John Mix

Sundays–

July 7: Phil Johnson

July 14: Bill Carmen

July 21: John Mix

July 28: Phil Johnson

Thursdays–

July 4: TBD

July 18: Steve McDonald

Altar Guild

July 7: Ginger Lee and Marlene Thomas

July 14: Kathy Koop and Dorothy McMillin

July 21: Kathy Marshak and Kathy Marren

July 28: Bonnie Anglin and Joan Serina

Flower Delivery to Shut-Ins

July 7: Mike Bayon

July 14: Alicia Johnston

July 21: Kathy Marren

July 28: Bob Mowad

Lectors:

Saturdays–

July 6: Steve McDonald

July 13: Bob Mowad

July 20: Louis Lafayette

July 27: John Mix

Sundays–

July 7: Leon Goodman

July 14: Randy Osofsky

July 21: John Mix

July 28: Pastor Alan Steinke

Thursdays–

July 4: TBD

July 11: Jessica Bernius

July 18: Steve McDonald

July 25: David Thomas

Ushers:

All Wednesdays: Barbara Ridings

All Saturdays: Ginger Lee and Craig Thomas

Sundays–

July 7: Danielle Wynn and Ed Wynn

July 14: Kyle Allocca and Craig Smestad

July 21: Bill Albert

July 28: Bill Carmen and Justin Holzwarth

Counters:

July 7: Kathy Koop, Dorothy McMillin, and Kathy Vrooman

July 14: Marie McDonald; Steve McDonald; David Thomas; and Marlene Thomas

July 21: Herb Jaklitsch, Willard Prostka, and Barbara Ridings

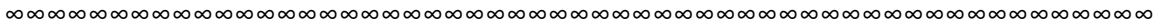
July 28: Gileen Allocca; Linda Kolbe; and Eileen Smestad

✦ St. Paul's Prayer List ✦

Please keep these members and friends of our congregation in your prayers.

MILITARY: Will Astacio; Allison Barz; Glen Bednarz; Leonard Blythe; Cameron Clark; Andrew Cobo; Stephen Cooke; Joe Diliberto; Christopher Harper; Michael Hickey; Frederick Ketcham; Kaitlyn Kessler; Matthew Mazzella; Eamonn McDonough; Cody and Kayla McGee; Richard Moffat; Nelson Montalvo; Nadine Navarro; Marcus Phelps; S/Sgt Porras; Peter Roach; Taylor Roach; Joseph Schonberg; Matt Spencer; Eric Stolz; and Danny Vanbenthuisen

HEALING: Barbara Aguanno; Anthony Aguanno; Fred Anderson; Phyllis Bello; Brock Benjamin; Eileen Capozzi; Jeannie and Ray Cardillo; Pastor Carney; Steve Cush; David Dentici; Gail Dupre; Frederika Ellis; Robert Engler; Marie Fassuloh; Anthony G.; Bill Hoehn; Barbara Holzwarth; Pastor Michael Hughes; Earline Jefferson; Phil Johnson; Robert Johnston; Werner Kohnke; Louis Lafayette; Catherine MacCarthy; Susan Maglione; Ruth Mahnken; Jim Meehan; Helen Meyer; Kenneth Meyerhoff; Madison Faith Milio; Harold Olsen; Wendy Pebler; Amanda Prag; Samantha Prince; Ruth Prostka; Willard Prostka; Peggy Prucha; Ryan Raff; Michael Reilly; Don Ridings; Fran Rizzo; Annamarie Sonnick; Inge Stone; Ransford Taylor; Virginia Thomas; June Tornis; Kathy Vrooman; Chris Weiss; Roger and the Wilmot family



A FRIENDLY REMINDER: Any announcements to be inserted in The Messenger for August need to be emailed to amityluther@verizon.net, or dropped off in the church office, no later than Monday, July 22. Thank you!

Hats Off to our St. Paul's Class of 2019!

We extend our congratulations to each graduate in our church family. We pray that God will continue to bless your lives as you embark on your next adventure.

Courtney Jean Bayon

Vermont Law School
Master of Law Degree in Environmental Law and Policy
Proud parents: Mike and Terrylynn Bayon

Madison Rose Berkowitz

Eastport-South Manor Junior-Senior High School, Manorville, NY
Happy aunt: Patsy O'Hare

Julia Flaherty

Nassau Community College
Beaming grandma: Barbara Ridings

Kyle Horstman

Farmingdale High School
Accepted into Suffolk Community College's Music Program
Delighted grandma: Kathy Vrooman

Ponor McMillin

SUNY Oswego
Elated grandma: Dottie McMillin

Hannah McMillin

Massapequa Middle School
Elated grandma: Dottie McMillin

Liam McMillin

Massapequa High School
Elated grandma: Dottie McMillin

Madison Meehan

Levittown High School
Beaming grandma: Barbara Ridings

Emily Ridings

SUNY Binghamton
Beaming grandma: Barbara Ridings

Patrick Ridings

The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.
Beaming grandma: Barbara Ridings

Andrew Tagliarino

Adelphi University
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Thrilled fiancé: Lyndsey Bayon

Aaron J. Zephir

Washington University in Kansas City, MO
BSBA Entrepreneurship, Writing and Sports Management
Gratified grandma: Gladys Jurgen

Bryce Zephir

Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica, CA
Headed to Post-Graduate School in the fall
Gratified grandma: Gladys Jurgen



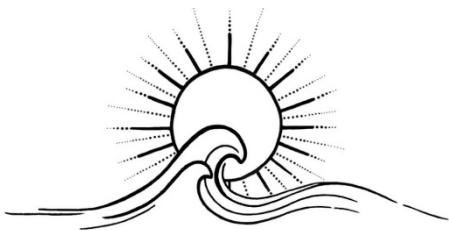
SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS AHEAD! We customarily have fellowship (the Lutheran code word for....eats!) after Sunday summer worship. If you'd like to host a fellowship of pastries, fruit, juice, and coffee on any summer Sunday on or after July 7, please sign the sheet in the narthex. (We will have a heartier celebration—casseroles and the like--for the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul on Sunday, June 30, courtesy of Dorothy McMillin and her team.)

Exchange Student Opportunity...Two

Christian high school students, a girl and a boy from Spain, are seeking (separate) hosts in our area for the 2019-2020 school year. Volunteer host families are sought for one or both semesters. Both students speak fluent English and will arrive with U.S. medical

insurance, spending money, and an expectation of sharing in household chores. Families with their own high-school student would obviously be ideal, but that's not required to be a host. For more information, call Marie-Claude Dijoud with Educational Merit Foundation USA at 1.800.467.8363.

Vacation Bible School is Coming! Save the week of August 12th through August 16th, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., for our 2019 program: ROAR - Life is Wild and God is Good. Vacation Bible School is open to all children ages 4 through 12. Sign up in the narthex. If you have any questions, check in with Cindy Gray. Two VBS preparation workshops for volunteers will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9th, and Tuesday, July 23rd.



WORSHIP AT THE BEACH!

Since the vibe of our Easter sunrise beach service has proven so popular, we thought we would try having two Saturday services at Amityville Beach this summer. These beach services will be held at 5:00 p.m. on **July 13th** and **August 10th**. Please note that **THESE DO NOT REPLACE THE REGULAR SATURDAY SERVICE** on those dates, which will be held at church at 6:30 p.m. as usual.



FLOAT □ AN IDEA!

Once again, St. Paul's will have a float in the Amityville Fourth of July Parade. Anyone who would like to walk with us should meet at the staging area on Bayside Avenue, off of Richmond Avenue, by 9:30 a.m. We will all be wearing red, white, and blue. The parade starts at 10 a.m., following Richmond Avenue to Ireland Place, then Bennett Place to Broadway. Contact David Thomas or Ginger Lee with questions. Let's have a nice crowd to represent our church!

SAVE MONEY ON CAR INSURANCE...Due to popular demand, Karla Petriccione has arranged for another defensive driving course to be held here at church. For your convenience, the six-hour course will be split into two three-hour classes: Monday, July 15th and Monday, July 22nd from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (You must attend both classes to earn your certificate.) The total cost is \$30, payable in advance with cash or a check made out to "Divergent Solutions." We need a minimum of 20 participants, so ask a friend or two to join you! Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex. For more information, call Karla at 516-557-3637.



YOUR PARTICIPATION IN ST. PAUL'S MINISTRY IS APPRECIATED!

Monthly Need: \$14,166.67

MAY 2019	ATTENDANCE	CHURCH ENVELOPES
May 5	106	\$2,578
May 12	109	\$4,181
May 19	83	\$1,989
May 26	104	\$1,814
	Total:	\$10,562
	Behind:	\$3,604.67

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

May 5: 8 children
May 12: 10 children
May 19: 6 children
May 26: 11 children

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NEWS WORTH KNOWING...

- Cindy Gray is still collecting loose change for the **Make-A-Wish** Foundation of Suffolk County in the jar in the narthex.
- Pastor's **Official Act** in the past month was the Baptism of Vivian Elaine Rodis, infant daughter of John and Kate Rodis (nee Lloyd).

Happy Anniversary!

Derek & Mara Thole: 16 years

Wayne & Kathryn Vahldieck: 48 years

