

# KOINONIA

July– August 2020



LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS  
PASTOR JAMES MILLER



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JIM

**“I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME,  
‘LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD’!**

Dear Friends in Christ:

So begins Psalm 122. The word *glad* was only the beginning of emotions I felt when we had our service at St. Paul’s on June 14. This was the first time in three months that a worship service was held in any of the three churches that make up our Lutheran parish of Northern Dutchess. Over the previous weekend, we learned that the restrictions were being eased for houses of worship. Previously no more than ten people were allowed to congregate for worship. That number would include clergy, organist, and any assistants, so it really meant that maybe 7 or 8 people would be allowed at a service. Now the number allowed was raised to 25% of a building’s legal capacity. That made a huge difference.

I met with the presidents of our three congregations and together we came to general agreement regarding what measures we would take to comply with health regulations and what adjustments we could make in our services to make them safe and still meaningful. They took these suggested plans back to their respective councils for discussions and decisions about re-opening. St. Paul’s decided to re-open on June 14 with a full service including offering Holy Communion. Third Lutheran Church in Rhinebeck decided to begin on June 21 with a Service of the Word. As I am writing this, Memorial Lutheran Church has decided to wait a little longer. Perhaps when you read this they too will be open.

I want to point out a few things. I am very pleased and thankful for the careful work that went into these decisions. Many, many people thought hard and deep. One very important aspect is that each congregation makes its own decision after basic guidelines were agreed upon at the Parish level. This is one of the many ways that contributes to the health of the Parish. We have unity, but we also celebrate the autonomy of each congregation. Another point I want to raise is as all of these decisions were being made, and then carried out, we were very conscious of and respectful of those among us who were uncomfortable about re-opening and were not planning to attend services right away. We know that their love of worship is no less than those who would be attending right away. Nevertheless, we wanted to make worship available for those who were ready, and will rejoice all the more when all feel safe to attend.

This brings me to my last point: rejoicing. In these last three months we have seen our world nearly upended. There is not a person on earth who has not felt the impact of this pandemic. Our medical system, economy, educational system, to name but a few categories have been shaken and will likely be experiencing changes not even dreamed of in the past. On top of that we are experiencing social unrest and political divisiveness that is very disturbing.

If there ever were a time that we needed to be able to worship, it is now. My prayer is that our doors will never again be closed. My prayer is that this pandemic will end and all restrictions will be lifted. My prayer is that we will have peace and unity again in our nation. My prayer is that our churches will be filled with people who want to hear the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that everyone will say, “I was glad when they said unto me ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD’!”

Christ’s peace. Pastor Jim



"The Grace of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, the Love of  
God, and the  
Communion of the Holy  
Spirit be with you all."

## Sermons, Readings and Prayers on Video

Vocal and Trumpet Solos by Pastor Jim

**YouTube Channel: LutheranParishNorthernDutchess**

Weekly uploads on Saturday

*If you missed a Sunday, they are still available on the channel for easy access.*

[www.LutheranParishNorthernDutchess.org](http://www.LutheranParishNorthernDutchess.org)

Click on Pastor Jim's picture on the Home Page. This will take you to the YouTube channel for the Parish. Select the readings or sermon you would like to view. Click the arrow to play.

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyScZg0AOFHzaXUBCBwuauO/>

Click on the link above or copy the address into the search bar of your browser. Clicking enter will take you to the Parish YouTube channel from which you can select the readings and sermons you would like to view.

**Subscribe to the channel:** receive automatic notification when a new video is posted.

Trouble Accessing or would like to be added to the email notification list,  
Contact Monica at [gabrymc@frontiernet.net](mailto:gabrymc@frontiernet.net) or 914-475-6613 voice or text.

***Please share via your social media networks, Like the Parish Facebook page,  
subscribe to this YouTube Channel, and/or forward the weekly emails.***

### Please Note

**In consideration for the health and safety of all congregants anyone who:**

- tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days,
- has flu-like or other COVID-19 symptoms, or a fever, or
- has been exposed to the virus or to someone who has tested positive within the past 14 days, or
- returned from a COVID-19 hot spot within the past 14 days and is required or recommended to quarantine

**should not attend an in-person worship service or gathering.**

[circuitpastorjim@aol.com](mailto:circuitpastorjim@aol.com)

# THE BUSINESS OF YOUR CALLING

“Do not work for the food which perishes”  
*John 6:27 NASB*

For what purpose do you undertake and follow your worldly business?  
“To provide things necessary for myself and my family.” A good enough answer as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough for a Christian. We must go abundantly farther. Our purpose in all things is to please God. To do, not our own will, but the will of God on earth as the angels do in heaven. We work for that which endures to everlasting life.

Again, in what manner do you transact your worldly business?  
I trust with diligence, with all your might. And in justice: rendering to all their due in every circumstance. And in mercy: doing unto everyone as you would they should do to you.

But Christians are called to go still farther: to add piety to justice; to intermix prayer - the prayer of the heart - with all the work of their hands. Without this, all the diligence and justice only show them to be honest persons. We must walk a “more excellent way” than honest pagans”

In what spirit do you go through your business? in the spirit of the world, or in the spirit of Christ? If you act in the spirit of Christ, you do everything in the spirit of sacrifice, giving up your will to the will of God. You continually aim, not at ease, or pleasure, or riches; not at anything other than the glory of God. This is the most excellent way of pursuing worldly business!

*Looking forward to our return and normal functions at Memorial  
Safe travels and continued good health to all*



Bronwyn Novak ----- August 3  
Carol Walker ----- August 15

God Bless  
Memorial Council President  
Tandy F. Walker  
(518) 789-6899 caroltandy5@gmail.com

## **NEWS FROM ST. PAUL'S**

I would like to welcome everyone back to our Sunday services. We were closed from March 15 and reopened on June 14 because of the pandemic. It's good to be back worshipping together with our church family. We have a lot to be thankful for. First, on July 12, Diana Chesley will be baptized into the Christian faith. We would like to welcome Diana and her family to St. Paul's.

Second, we had to postpone Confirmation, it will be rescheduled later this summer. Molly McConville and Charlie Lueck have completed two years of confirmation classes and will be welcome into our church membership.

Third, I would like to congratulate Chloe Smith upon her graduation from high school. She will be attending college this fall.

Fourth, Sam Patton is working on his Eagle Scout project and is designing a new sign for St. Paul's.

When the council meets we will need to discuss the repairs needed to our stain glass windows in the church.

Hope to see you at Sunday services.  
God Bless

Marilyn Heuer, President





## TO THESE ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS

### July

5- Don Peterson  
10- Raella Werner  
13- Elizabeth Kazantzis  
19- Bob Heuer  
19- Janet Williams  
19- Julie Williams  
31- Brad Patton

### August

4- Rich Dill  
7- Nathan Piaget  
21- Marilyn Heuer  
25- Steve Bucala

God will take care of you  
Through everyday o'er all the way  
He will care for you  
God will take care of you





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**PASTOR JAMES MILLER**

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<http://www.lutheranparishnortherndutchess.org/>

**Dated Material Address Correction Requested  
THE SEASONS OF EASTER & PENTACOST**



**LUTHERAN PARISH OF  
NORTHERN DUTCHESS**

**See inside for information  
about COVID 19 reopening**

Parish Council President: Carl Dowden

Memorial Lutheran, Rock City, Council

President: Tandy Walker

***Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 am***

St. Paul's Lutheran, Red Hook, Council

President: Marilyn Heurer

***Sunday Holy Communion 11:00 am***

Third Lutheran, Rhinebeck,

Church Council President:

President: Monica Gabryszewski

***Sunday Holy Communion 9:45 am***

Pastor James Miller