



The disciples asked, 'Then who can be saved?!!' But Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'

- Matthew 19:25-26

# The Messenger

Summer 2025

## Pastor's Sabbatical

A sabbatical is a rest or break from work, an extended period of time intentionally spent on something that's not the routine. It originates in the biblical practice of sabbath keeping, a weekly break from work and also the *shmita* (Hebrew for the sabbatical year), which is related to agriculture. In Spanish we refer to Saturday as *Sabado*; this reminds us of that biblical understanding of a day set apart to rest.

The Sabbath is a day apart, a day to keep holy. Christians often think of Sunday as the Sabbath, a day to worship, but the commandment is about a day to rest. The day of rest is also a day to reflect, to pray and to nurture a wider perspective and deeper gratitude.

Also, according to Leviticus, chapter 25, God commands a year-long break from working the fields every seven years.

"The LORD spoke to Moses... saying, <sup>2</sup> "...When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a Sabbath for the LORD. <sup>3</sup> Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in their yield, <sup>4</sup> but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the LORD.

St. Paul's, at our last congregational meeting, approved a budget for a three-month sabbatical for me which I will be taking from September thru November. During this time, we will have four different preachers on rotation and one Pastor who will be on call for emergencies and to be present at meetings of the council. Rev. Lena Warren, who has preached for us on multiple occasions, will be on-call for emergencies and will also preach three times.

We have an amazing crew of volunteer leaders in our congregation, and they will step up to see to some of the day-to-day operation of our congregation.

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## Child Care Center

Medina Telesco, Director

M-F 7:30am -5:30pm

Children 6 weeks to 5 years

childcaredir@stpaulsryebrook.com

(914) 939-3079

Pastor Jim O'Hanlon

johanlon.stpauls@gmail.com (917) 803-3974

Donna Smith, Secretary (914) 939-8170

spelch@msn.com

Congratulations to  
the class of 2025!



Thank you Dave Palastro and CCC for  
taking care of the vegetable garden.



### *Care for Creation: Redirect stuff from landfill*

*Thanks to all who use the Clothing Shed in the parking lot.*

*Volunteer to help with this important project.*

#### **What to Drop-off:**

Used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.

#### **What Not to Drop-off:**

Food, furniture, electronics, household items, books, toys, garbage, pillows, rags, and fabric scraps.



## “Pastor’s Sabbatical”

*Continued from page one*

Our scripture tells us that the seventh day is for rest, just as it was after God’s work of creation, and the seventh year marks rest for the land. A sabbatical, as I said, is a biblical concept. God resting on the seventh day is meant as a model for us. We are reminded of this in the third commandment:

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

In this story of creation there is an even more frequent sense of stopping and reflecting. Each day of creation, God takes a moment to consider the work of that day, “And God saw that it was good.” This shows us a daily cycle of sitting back, looking over the work of the day, taking stock and, if we follow God’s lead, declaring that creation and our

work with it is good. So, the seventh day is rest after the work of that week, the seventh year requires rest for the land. But I also see how at sunset, once every twenty-four hours, we, like the Creator, can stop to reflect and perhaps to give thanks.

Last year I started to work on a degree at United Lutheran Seminary, one or two classes a semester. It’s important to make time for reading and writing and to spend time with other students and teachers, to learn new things and refresh lessons from long ago. This will keep me busy during my sabbatical. I may also make some small trips, you know how much I enjoy historical travel or travel as a modern pilgrimage.

I am grateful that I am fortunate enough to have a call to a congregation that can and wants to provide a sabbatical and I know it will be beneficial to our mission and ministry.

I will be taking a break from ministry in many ways but not a break from my faith. My hope is that my faith will be renewed and refreshed. Faith needs on-going examination and growth. I will not be taking a break from prayer, I expect to be growing in prayer and I will be praying for all of you, giving thanks to God for each of you.

In God’s love,

Pastor Jim



Much thanks to the Roth family,  
Ruth-Anne, Carl and Tommy,  
Roth Nurseries, for all the beautiful  
new bushes and flowers.

## God's Work. Our Hands.



Between now and September we will be raising money for **Church World Service (CWS)** for health kits and women's hygiene kits.

**Price:** \$155.00 per case (includes shipping to you and back to CWS). Each case contains 10 packs/kits

**Plus Processing Fee:** \$20 per case (\$2 per kits) to transport kits to their final destinations locally and globally.

Goal: \$875 for 5 cases (50 kits).

We will assemble kits on Sun, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Make a note with your donation: Health Kits

### ***Thanks***

**to all for generous support of time, talent and offerings!**

- 1) Venmo.com or the **Venmo** app on smart phone  
@stpauls-ryebrook (Laura Chen-Schultz)  
If it asks for last four digits: 0804

- 2) You can use **Credit or Debit Card**

- 3) Your bank's **Quickpay** with Zelle  
Search for "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church"  
at spelch@msn.com

- 4) By **mailing** it or instructing your bank to send a check of whatever amount and frequency you choose.

761 King Street, Rye Brook, NY 10573

### **Can you help a Port Chester child with their back to school supplies?**

St. Paul's is shopping for 40 elementary and 5 middle schoolers. We must deliver all supplies to the Carver Center on August 19, so shop from our list now! **Here's how you can help:**

Visit the St. Paul's Back to School (BTS) Amazon shopping list in your weekly email or the QR code, here on the left.



Call the office and we'll place your order for you: 914-939-8170

Send Venmo or check donation to St. Paul's with a notation: BTS.

**Join us on Friday, August 15th at 6 PM for dinner, bingo, and packing up our BTS supplies!**

*Thank you!*

# Birthdays

## August

1 Olivia Birittieri  
 2 Trevor Disbennett  
 3 Ross Disbennett  
 4 Kim Budinoff  
 5 Andy Richardson  
 6 Medina Telesco  
 8 Chip Gawle  
 9 Robert Trenck  
 9 Anita Charleswell  
 12 David Ridberg  
 13 Dan Budinoff  
 14 Deborah Ernst  
 18 Edzani Kelapile  
 18 George Powers  
 21 Ally Mark  
 21 Klara Severance  
 22 Cecilia Kelapile  
 23 Thomas Miller  
 23 Noki Masuku  
 25 Carolyn Seewaldt  
 28 Erin Powers  
 29 Lorna O'Hanlon  
 31 Linda Armstrong

## September

1 Dave Brady  
 3 Bill Severance  
 4 Evin Eski  
 4 Dcn. Philip Jenks  
 6 Muriel Guinta  
 6 Jason Hodge  
 8 Kevin Cosgrove  
 10 Thulani Boateng  
 11 Melinda Case  
 12 Faith Tobiasen  
 13 Lukas Patrizio  
 13 Kate Richardson  
 13 John Makowski  
 15 Victor Fulmore  
 24 Kara Hodge  
 27 Julia Rios  
 28 Lily Cruz  
 28 Don Weber  
 30 Renee Meads

## October

2 Emily Richardson  
 3 Evan Jeske  
 7 Claudia Conway  
 7 Susan-Anne Cosgrove  
 10 Eric Rios  
 12 Terina Armstrong  
 13 Ruth-Anne Cosgrove  
 13 Barbara Giorgi  
 15 Patty Caviola  
 16 Don Roller  
 18 Patty Quell  
 20 Kim Quell  
 23 Savannah Miller  
 24 Linda Thompson  
 26 Cathy Rosenfeld  
 27 Joe Supp  
 27 Cara O'Hanlon  
 27 Tayler Salvatore  
 29 Katie Gallego

We Worship at  
**the Mews of Greenwich**  
 one Thursday and  
 one Sunday each month

### Yoga at St. Paul's

Tuesdays at 3:30pm

Saturdays at 11am

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 7pm

No prior experience necessary.

Free-will offering. (\$10-20 suggested)

Ask Evan for more information

## Blake's Baptism





**We welcome all**  
who are seeking God's love and  
grace.

**We welcome all**  
because God welcomes all.  
*We encourage young children to partic-  
ipate and make their presence known.  
We are many races and cultures, differ-  
ent sexual orientations, gender identi-  
ties and families of various configura-  
tions and single people. We come from  
a wide variety of places on earth and  
individual spiritual journeys. We are  
various stages of life, differing abilities  
and health, and economic circumstanc-  
es.*

*Our unity is in Christ  
who calls for us to reject division  
and discrimination.*



Sent with a prayer to:

**St. Paul's**  
761 King Street at Comly Ave.  
Rye Brook, New York 10573  
(914) 939-8170

