



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 2, 2024)

St. Paul's, Gladwin, Eastern Michigan

211 East Cedar Avenue, Gladwin, MI 48624, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/30/24.

tlittle@eastmich.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

30

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

1

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

4

Current Annual
Compensation

\$44496

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

\$32000

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options

Negotiable

Dental

Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget

Sabbatical Provision

Travel/Auto Account

Other Professional Account

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Two ministries come to mind. The first is the construction of a "Blessing Box" on the grounds of St. Paul's in conjunction with Christ the King Lutheran Church, Gladwin. The "Blessing Box" is an outdoor cabinet that is available to anyone in the community to contribute food into or to take what they need on a continuing and discreet basis. On any given day the "turnover" of food items is significant to indicate that it is fully utilized by the community and appreciated. St. Paul's is located on the main street of Gladwin which makes it visible and convenient for those using the box. St. Paul's has shared several ministries with Christ the King for many years. The second ministry is the "RIP" ministry through St. John's, Midland. This was a ministry where hospital debts were retired for pennies on the dollar for people who had unpayable bills for recent healthcare. St. Paul's donated \$1,000 for this cause. The unpaid debts were taken off their credit score which at least partially restored their credit rating.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

With St. Paul's active Worship committee we are striving to not only help our new priest, but also to start an ongoing ministry that will assist those in need. St. Paul's does not currently have an active ministry for the homebound or those in the hospital but we are hoping to institute one in the near future. Our congregation is active in helping organizations in the community as well as our own strong ECW and DOK organizations. We realize that while the church of the future may be small in numbers it will be strong in community and church support. We have a current member who has completed their first year of the College for Congregational Development and will be attending their second and final year July 2024. We hope to have others in attendance next July to help our parish move forward.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Liturgist; life in community; teacher; engagement with the congregation

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

St. Paul's liturgical style is drawn from the rich Anglican tradition found in all Episcopal resources. During the Covid period we live streamed our services on Facebook to make it available to parishioners who were not able to attend in-person services. We have been unable to continue this ministry without a priest to give us guidance. Our primary worship service, spoken and sung, is every Sunday morning at 10am with celebrations at Christmas and Easter, with special day celebrations held in conjunction with a local Lutheran Church, Christ the King. Eucharist is celebrated once or twice a month depending on the availability of supply clergy. Our worship committee has 5 licensed Lay Worship leaders who plan and lead Morning Prayer. With a new rector, we hope to offer other worship services. We encourage parishioners to add their own prayer petitions and celebrate personal milestones. Music is a key part of our worship. Our talented music director offers wonderful music each week and organizes guitar Sunday several times a year including music at our annual picnic in July. Congregational singing is vibrant as the congregation is the choir.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

At St. Paul's we recognize that everyone has gifts that they can offer and we try to incorporate those gifts with the various ministries that we have onsite as well as support. St. Paul's has a family atmosphere. Once you come through the doors you are considered a friend/member and we have a place for you. We invite members to ECW, DOK and ask all members to assist as needed. We are a team and many hands make the work easier.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

St. Paul's has a thriving Worship Committee which has 5 current Worship Leaders and 1 who is currently studying the Lay Preacher curriculum. We have church office hours Monday - Thursday from 9am to 1pm. We have a current "call list" for communication in case we have someone who needs assistance, prayers, comfort, support, or to notify the congregation of illness or death of a member. At St. Paul's we care for each other, reaching out is a sign of strength and is always answered.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

St. Paul's recognized the 2nd Sunday of each month as discretionary Sunday. Any loose monies collected on that Sunday are used to assist anyone who comes into the church asking for help. In the past those funds have been used to help families pay for food, heating, gas for their vehicles, or whatever expense that they are currently struggling through. There is a "Blessing Box" in front of the church that we help stock with Christ the King Lutheran Church. The box has various forms of food and necessities to help those when the church is not open for assistance. St. Paul's is also the meeting place for multiple AA meetings as well as Al-Anon meetings. St. Paul's is currently working on a pilot program that will assist caregivers who have the main responsibility of caring for spouses, parents, or children. To help those who support others with support as needed.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

St. Paul's has a long history supporting the needs of the Gladwin community. Several members of St. Paul's regularly support a periodic food distribution program at Christ the King Lutheran Church. This ministry regularly supports 200+ needy families. The ECW buys, wraps, and distributes Christmas gifts for needy children. St. Paul's has been a long supporter of the local AA and NA groups. We are a preferred location because of our anonymity policy and, convenience for those members. We are regular partners with Christ the King Lutheran Church including Bible Study, Blessing Box, Blessing of the Animals, common special services, Backpack Buddies, and other ministries on an on-going basis. We have some outstanding crocheters and manage to keep a plentiful supply of prayer shawls for distribution to those who need spiritual comfort.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Just after the retirement of Fr. Tom Downs at the end of 2022, St. Paul's formed a Worship Committee to ensure the scheduled worship services were supported with either supply priests or Lay Worship Leaders. This group oversees all of the needed ministries that are needed for worship and the physical operation of the church. It has been highly successful with many parishioners stepping forward to fill in the voids that Fr. Tom left with a resulting stronger parish because of it. Two parishioners have earned their Lay Worship Leader license to bring us to a total of 5 active worship leaders. The primary contact on this ministry is Marilea Levine at St. Paul's, 989-426-9943.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

St. Paul's has a strong Financial Committee. Their responsibilities include but are not limited to making sure that the church is on solid financial ground, completing the annual Stewardship drive, an annual budget as well as keeping a stable and positive management style with our wealth management account through Merrill Lynch.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Conflict can and will happen in any organization. We, at St. Paul's, choose to be forthcoming and respectful with each other and with anyone inside or outside the church. While we don't always have to agree with each other, we choose to lay the facts out, have the conversations at the appropriate times, and if necessary, take that information to the vestry for a decision making process. Our Vestry, which can be "spirited" at times, is always respectful and those on the vestry realize that we carry the responsibilities for not only ourselves, but for the church as a whole.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

In December 2022, when Father Tom Downs announced his retirement, we at St. Paul's were obviously torn. We realized that Fr. Tom should have the right to a retirement and yet we were concerned for our future as a church. We immediately reached out to Canon Tracie Little and she advised us on our steps going forward. We at St. Paul's are extremely proud of our congregation as a whole. In the beginning there were struggles. Fr. Tom had handled so much and we were unaware of just how much there is to running a church. That being stated, our church has stepped up and every Sunday we have had services, whether with a visiting priest or with Morning Prayer led by one of our worship leaders. We have a member who is going into her second year in the College for Congregational Development and that has been a great resource for us. We have learned that if we reach out for help when we have questions that there is always someone there who is willing to offer assistance. We take one day at a time, we have grace with each other and always carry our sense of humor with us.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Tom Downs	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2010-01	2022-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Mary Joe Schuetz	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2000-01	2010-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Worshipping Community Web site:

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

The website is currently being updated.

References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Skip Adams
(Assisting Bishop)**

sadams@eastmich.org 877-752-6020

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Tracie
Little**

tlittle@eastmich.org 810-300-9177

Current Warden/Board Chair

Frank Bisogni

feb52@hotmail.com 248-535-8797

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader

**The Rev. Emily
Osen-Brandt**

pastor.ctkinggladwin@gmail.com 989-426-1659