



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ March 25, 2020

From Deacon Deborah

Dear friends,

No one could have imagined that we would be living our days as we are now. We find ourselves separated, strained and maybe a little sad. All ways of Wisdom teach us that it is not the circumstances of our lives that confer meaning as it is the thoughts we have about the circumstances. We choose the value of our experience. Bishop Curry has shared this poem with us. I hope it brings comfort and reminds us how precious is all time.

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah

Sabbath

*What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.*

*And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.*

*(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has become clear.)*

*Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.*

*Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.*

Lynn Ungar

Words from Wardens

It was very hard for me last Sunday to not come to church. While there are many Sundays that for whatever reason, I don't come to church, I have always had a choice.

Unfortunately because of reasons we all understand, that option has been taken away from us, and it is difficult to come to terms with that. While online worship may be new to all of us, it is a way to stay connected in our faith. Please see the links that Lisa has provided for us to continue our worship, and while doing so, think of our beloved St. Paul's family, remembering that our building is not what defines us – WE are St. Paul's!

Also rest assured that while we are not physically in our building, some of our devoted "shepherds" are caring for the building and day to day business. Thank you, Lisa, for carrying on with business and for keeping us informed via the ePistle. Thank you, Al Robel, for periodically checking on the building. A special thanks also goes to Deacon Deb who has committed to keeping the Sanctuary Candle lit during these uncertain times, sending us the message that the Light of Christ is still shining.

Stay well!

Beth Lukas, Sr Warden

Readings for this Sunday, March 29th

Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year A

Collect: Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Gradual: Psalm 130

The Epistle: Romans 8:6-11

The Gospel: John 11:1-45

All Christians Invited to Pray on Wednesday, March 25th

Episcopalians are invited to join with Christians around the world as together we join in praying the Lord's Prayer on **Wednesday, March 25 at noon** in our own time zones in response to the coronavirus pandemic. For more information please click on the link below:

<https://episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/all-christians-invited-pray-wednesday-march-25th>

We Are Still the Hands and Heart of Jesus: A Message from Bishop Lee

Bishop Jeffrey Lee of Chicago speaks about the COVID-19 pandemic and how the people of the church can continue to be the hands and heart of Jesus when we are not able to meet in person.

<https://episcopalchicago.org/we-are-still-the-hands-and-heart-of-jesus-a-message-from-bishop-lee/>

Helpful Websites

Below are links from Bishop Curry, Bishop Lee, and others that you may find helpful:

Episcopal News Service. Bishop Curry's news is posted here along with Episcopal news from around the country. Subscribe: <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/>

Chicago Diocese website. Bishop Lee posts his videos and letters here along with other diocese news. Very good general resource. <https://episcopalchicago.org/>

Leadership News from Chicago Diocese: From the diocese home page there is a link to subscribe to the newsletter. Updates come regularly and are informative.

Episcopal Relief and Development. Link to supportive resources: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/us-disaster-program/remoteministry/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>

St. Paul's Prayer List

Please keep those on our prayer list in your thoughts during this time. If you wish to add to the list, please contact the church office.

Ongoing prayers: Yasmin, Kay, Edna, Ann, Amy, Tim, Bren, Brady, Jim, Marty, Barb, Marianne, Jim, Lucy, Vic, and Cindy

Current prayers: Michelle, Jenn, Bonnie, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Shane, Heather, Jim, Fran, Jerry, Joe, Ty, Traci, Rebecca, Bob, Patty, Judy, Tony, Christina, Dorothy, Michael, and Debbie

Pledges

Quarterly pledge statements will be sent out after 3/31/20. In the meantime, please continue to stay up to date on your pledges. If you normally pay your pledges in person on Sunday morning, consider mailing them in, or you can set up an automatic payment through your bank.

Local food pantries are in need of cash donations as shut downs impact the financial stability of many in our community:

Pioneer Center
Turning Point
Home of the Sparrow
Fish Food Pantry

Daily Devotions

Father Bill McLemore emails out a devotion every day. If you would like to be put on his list to receive them, or if you have questions, please email him at: wmclemore37@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Parish Directory

Updated directories are available on the table in the Narthex. If you would like one emailed or mailed to you, please let the office know and we'll get one right out to you!

Our upcoming Craft Show needs signs!

If you have any political signs that you'd like to get rid of, or know someone that does, the Craft Show Committee would love to take them off your hands. We'll be needing signs to post around town to advertise our craft show on September 19th and we'll re-purpose donated signs for our advertising. Questions? Email Lisa@stpaulmchenry.com

Questions or concerns?

Please contact our Wardens - Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)
or Jeffrey Zabor (Junior Warden).

In need of pastoral care?

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon.



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St. Paul's Email - stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net

Quick Links

*Diocese of Chicago
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Forward Day by Day*

Vestry Minutes

*January 2020
February 2020*

St Paul's Episcopal Church | 3706 W. Saint Paul Avenue, McHenry, IL 60050

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