



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ July 1, 2020

From Deacon Deb

The day we have been hoping for is finally here. We will, at last, be together for worship this Sunday, July 5. Our way of doing things will be different but we will be together doing what matters most. And isn't that what we should focus on in the midst of it all? Doing what matters most is often a way for us to turn from all the distractions and voices in our lives toward our inmost self. Doing what matters most speaks to the heart of who we are as a people. Doing what matters most keeps us grounded, joyful and hopeful when life presents itself as anything but. We have been through some uncertain days and there are surely more to come, yet we continue on as the people of God and the community of St. Paul's. We will do what matters most in loving and serving our God and each other - no matter what.

Please note that we will observe Phase 4 and Diocesan guidelines for gatherings of 50 persons or less. All persons will be asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Bulletins and signage will provide further instructions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Words from Wardens

It is hard to believe that it is July already. We have been through a lot these past months as we have all navigated so many uncharted waters during this pandemic. As we turn the calendar to the month of July, I cannot help but think that July is a special month that focuses on celebration! While our country, state and city are still dealing with uncertain times, the Fourth of July has always been an opportunity to celebrate. What better time for us at St. Paul's to be able to make this celebration even better by opening our doors and being together for the first time in over 3 months. The Rev. Scott Zaucha, who is the Rector at St. Ann's in Woodstock, will be with us this Sunday. St. Ann's is not opening until July 12, so he has graciously offered to be with us to celebrate the Eucharist on our first Sunday together.

As we prepare to reopen our doors on Sunday, July 5th, please be assured that our Deacon, Wardens and Vestry have worked very hard to responsibly return to worship. Our building has been thoroughly cleaned, and guidelines have been written to ensure the safety of all. Everyone will be expected to wear a mask and physical distancing will be in place. Overall guidelines will be available as a bulletin insert this Sunday. Yes, it will look a little different, and yes, it will seem awkward at first, but the good news is that we can be together again. Please bear with us as we go through this together.

Finally, as you know, a lot has been happening at St. Paul's these last few months while we have been closed. We have done our best to keep the lines of communication open and keep you informed. Now that we can be together again, we are planning to have a Parish Meeting on Sunday, July 19, following Morning Prayer. This will be an opportunity to discuss our plans for moving forward together. Please plan to be with us.

Sincerely,

Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)

Men's Breakfasts

Interested in our Men's Breakfasts? Need more information? These gatherings might pick up again in August, but Al Robel would like to hear from you to find out if there is interest. Please call Al (815-236-8348) or email (alanrobel@att.net) to let him know. Thanks!

Parish Meeting July 19th following Morning Prayer

Please join us after the service on July 19th as we discuss our plans for St. Paul's.

Food for Thought

Even though it's summer, we're looking forward to filling our grocery cart in anticipation of school opening in August. McHenry High School students anonymously provides bags of food to qualifying students to sustain them through the weekend. Items needed are:

Canned tuna, salmon, chicken, vegetables, and fruits
Grains (brown & white rice, pasta, mac & cheese)
Hot and cold cereals
Healthy snacks, peanut butter, and canned soups



St. Paul's is in need of cleaning help - someone willing to come in on a weekly or twice-monthly basis to vacuum, dust, clean the bathrooms, and other various tasks around the church. Please let the office know if you are willing to take over this position or if you have any questions!

Holy Mowers July Schedule

Week 1 - Jeff Zabor
Week 2 - Ashley Pecoraro
Week 3 - Jeff Lynaugh
Week 4 - Bill Lang

St. Paul's Prayer List Week of July 5 - 11

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, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Kathy, Doc, and Farmer John

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/>

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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