



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ July 15, 2020

Parish Meeting July 19th following Morning Prayer

Please join us after the service **this Sunday** as we discuss our plans for St. Paul's.

Words from Wardens

Greetings from the north woods of Wisconsin! Jim & I and some of our family members are spending a quiet week enjoying a beautiful lakeside setting listening to the sounds of nature all around us. This is a type of quarantine I could get used to!! One of my favorite sounds of nature is the beautiful call of the loon. It is a haunting, but peaceful sound that always makes me feel that "all is well". Listening to the loons this week reminds me that while there is so much uncertainty in our world today, there are also many things that are certain: the sounds of the birds singing, the loons calling, and the commitment of the people of St Paul's. We have been challenged in the past and we face challenges ahead. Just like the loons, (who, by the way, mate for life), we are a family determined to stay together.

Please join us this Sunday for an our first in-person meeting since January. This will be an opportunity to have an open discussion about where we are going and how every member of this parish can be a part of our future.

Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)



St. Paul's is back in business! Twenty-three of us gathered to celebrate with Rev. Scott Zaucha from St. Ann's on July 5th, with social distancing observed. Welcome back!

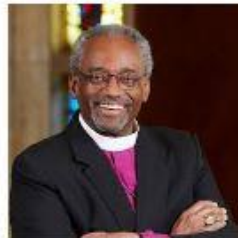
Men's Breakfasts

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!

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



Habits of Grace ***by The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry*** ***July 7, 2020: The growing edge***

The 4th of July weekend has just concluded and a new week has begun, but the titanic struggles of the old world continue. The struggles to face painful truths of our racial past, the struggles to find ways to fashion a new future, the struggles for racial justice and human equality and true human reconciliation. Even in the midst of these struggles, we still face a pandemic that is worldwide. Now the United States itself is gravely threatened and affected by COVID-19. And even in the midst of all of that, we enter a season of electioneering, campaigning, a presidential election that could well be a profoundly polarizing and divisive election for our country.

In this time, I remember the words of Howard Thurman, who I often go back to. Dr. Thurman was one of the founders of probably the first interracial and interreligious church in the United States in San Francisco, back in the forties and fifties. He was the author of *Jesus and the Disinherited*. He was one of the people who went and met Mahatma Gandhi in the 1940's, and brought back his teachings of non-violent social change that influenced an entire civil rights movement. He was quietly, if you will, the spiritual director of many of the leaders of the civil rights movement. Whitney Young, Roy Wilkins, Martin King, many others went quietly to Howard Thurman to talk, to reflect, to pray. He wrote this in one of his meditations about times of great transition and turmoil:

Look well to the growing edge. All around us, worlds are dying and new worlds are being born. All around us, life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such as the growing edge. It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed. The upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason. A source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of a child — life's most dramatic answer to death — this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!

God love you. God bless you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.



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 19 - 25

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, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Shane, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Kathy, Doc, Farmer John, Larry, Jerry, and Audra

For those celebrating birthdays: Marilyn Reihansperger (20th), Robert Vonderohe (22nd)

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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