



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ July 29, 2020

Words from Wardens

It is hard to believe that it is almost August, and summer is winding to a close. School will be starting soon, and even though we are not sure what that will look like, it means that life does go on. It is similar to what we are going through at St. Paul's right now – our church life is changing in the way we are worshiping now and what our worship experience will look like in the future. So many questions and so many uncertainties lie ahead, which makes it easy to be afraid. While I do not know what lies ahead for St. Paul's, I can tell you that right now in this very moment, the spirit is alive and well at our Morning Prayer services being held every Sunday morning. Being together as a faithful community, listening to the readings, reciting the beloved prayers, and hearing the beautiful music is very soothing to the soul. I find the service to be a moment to step away from the outside world and focus on the simple message that God is telling usGod is with us always! Please join us!

While we are moving forward in our search for ways to continue to be together as a community in faith, we have promised that we will not lose sight of our commitment to outreach. Please continue to fill our food cart so that when the school year does start, we can provide a full cart to our Food for Thought ministry that provides food for families in need in the McHenry school district. I am also excited to announce that a new outreach project has presented itself to us, which you will be hearing more about in the days to come – more details below.

God **is** with us, always.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:20

Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)



Calling all knitters, sewers and helpful folk!

We have a new outreach opportunity for Kids in Need here in McHenry. Elementary school age children are in need of hats, mittens, and masks for the upcoming school year. We are planning a day to get together to work on these projects and we need to know how many are interested. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can leave a message in the office. If there is enough interest, we'll set a date! Materials and patterns will be provided. Kits can be made up for those wanting to sew them at home.

Knitters - can you make child-size hats or mittens?

Sewers - can you bring your sewing machine and stitch up masks and easy fleece mittens?

Non-sewers - can you trace the patterns and cut out pieces for the sewers?

Questions? Just let Lisa know!

Sunday Morning? Why yes, I'm free!

Thom S. Rainer, the founder of Church Answers, an online community for church leaders, asked ministers and churchgoers alike to share the best excuses they've heard for skipping church:

- "I couldn't get the lid off the peanut butter."
- "The church is too close to drive and too far to walk."
- "Both of my girlfriends attend church there."
- "The pastor stays in the Bible too much."
- "The pastor is too attractive. When I see him preaching, I have impure thoughts and I am distracted."
- "My wife cooked bacon for breakfast, and our entire family smelled like bacon."
- "The worship leader pulls up his pants too often. It's distracting."
- "I always get hemorrhoids on Sundays."
- "Someone called me 'brother' instead of using my name."

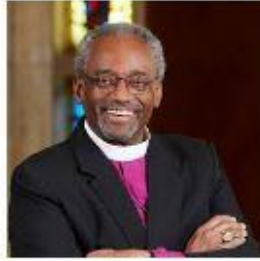
Holy Mowers August Schedule

Week 1 - Ashley Pecoraro

Week 2 - Jeff Zabor

Week 3 - Jeff Lynaugh

Week 4 - Bill Lang



Habits of Grace
The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
July 27, 2020: Prayer into action

Earlier this week, I was preparing a very brief meditation for a kind of public service announcement on prayer in the time of pandemic. And as I was preparing, something dawned on me that I wanted to share with you. There are two instances and there may be others to be sure, in both the Hebrew scriptures and in the New Testament where you see prayer linked directly with action.

One example is found in First Kings where the prophet Elijah is fleeing for his life. He, in Chapter 19, says he ends up at a cave near Mount Horeb, which is Mount Sinai in other places. And there for 40 days, he's in prayer, fasting and struggling. And after that time of prayer, when he kind of senses what God wants him to do, he then goes out and leads a reformation in Israel that was really significant.

His prayer led him to action. You see the same kind of pattern in Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, he's praying about what he should do. And that leads him to make the decision to give his life, to show what love looks like for the cause and way of love. But it's that prayer that leads to action. It occurred to me that in this time of pandemic, it may be helpful to remember that our prayer can lead to actions. We can't do all the things that we used to do, but we can do some things. We can pray, pray for all of the conditions and all of the situations that we are aware of in our world, and that we are aware of because of this pandemic, but also take some action. There are ways we can support causes that help people in this time.

There are ways that we can support ministries that are helpful, but there's some simple ways. We can keep social distance. That's a way of action. It's an act of prayer. We can pay attention to public health officials and their guidance, that's an action. And we can wear, of course, these. We can wear these face masks. And so I was trying to think of what is a prayer that combines prayer and action in the Book of Common Prayer? And I found it, there are many, but this one stands out.

It's the prayer of St. Francis:

Lord make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is discord, union. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Pray and do what you can.

God love you. God bless you and keep the faith.

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 Prayer List Week of August 2 - Aug 8

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, Brandy, Danielle, Larry, Jerry, Audra, and Peter

For those celebrating birthdays: Al Robel (3rd), Nicole Toft (3rd), Julie Sundin (8th)

For those celebrating anniversaries: Jim & Beth Lukas (2nd), Rick & Jan Carlstedt (5th)

Diocesan Convention on November 21 183rd Convention to take place online

The 183rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2020 as a virtual gathering between 9 am and 3 pm.

Convention is the annual business meeting of the diocese, during which we elect leaders, consider resolutions and hear reports from across the diocese and the wider church.

Voting participants at convention include the clergy of the diocese and lay delegates elected from each congregation. All voting will be conducted electronically. General attendees and visitors are invited to observe the proceedings online or to listen by phone.

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/>

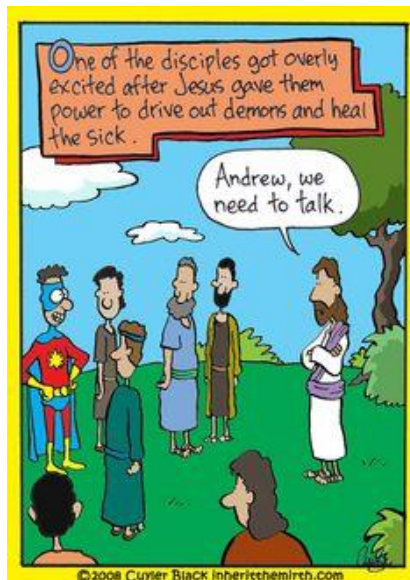
World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>

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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Vestry Minutes

*April 2020
May 2020*

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