

**Love God. Love Your Neighbor.
Change the World.**

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ October 21, 2020

From Deacon Deb

Sunday, November 1, is All Saints Day. This singular day is one of the seven principle feasts of the church year and commemorates all saints, known and unknown. It is a time to remember all our loved ones who have gone before. For us, it will also be a time to remember with gratitude all former St. Paul members upon whose shoulders we stand. Ours is a full history and we are indebted to those who have supported our church, supported our outreach and have worshipped within these walls. It is for this liturgical significance that Sunday, November 1, All Saints Day, will be our last Eucharist celebrated at 3706 W. St. Paul Avenue.

We encourage you to attend this special Eucharist at 8:30 am. Given our current restrictions, we cannot hold the celebration we would like but hope for many picture taking opportunities. Our capacity is limited and are asking that you make a reservation so that we can make appropriate accommodations. Please call the church office at 815-385-0390 or email Lisa at lisa@stpaulmchenry.com with the number of persons attending soon.

The first Eucharist in our new church home at 3717 West Main Street will be held the following Sunday, November 8 at 8:30 am. More news about that to come...

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah



Words from Wardens

Today it seems that change is all around us – impending elections are likely to bring changes, the unsettled conditions surrounding COVID are constantly changing, the way we are worshipping has changed, the season is changing, and St. Paul's is facing more changes in the weeks to come. Even though we know that it is through change that we grow, it is always unsettling. It is for precisely this reason that we must hold on to the one thing that NEVER changes – God is, and has always been, with us.

With Deacon Deb's permission, I am including a copy of the sermon that she shared with us last Sunday. In this sermon based on the Gospel reading from Matthew 22:15-22, Jesus teaches us "Give to God the things that are God's". Deb goes on to say that the Good News is that we belong to God no matter what is presented to us.

Our faith in God and in our St. Paul's community will lead us through the changes we are facing simply because no matter where and how we worship, we are together, and God is always with us.

Beth Lukas Sr. Warden

Sermon: Matthew 22:15-22

October 18, 2020

Deborah Lang

"Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." Once again, the Pharisees are attempting to manipulate Jesus into condemning himself. This time they bring the Herodians; a fiercely zealous group devoted to the Roman occupation of Judea. They intend to entrap Jesus by forcing him to choose between the tax that is due the reign of the Roman Empire and the fulfillment of the law that is due the reign of God. Theirs was a lose/lose question. Jesus sees through their scheme and calls for the coin used to pay the tax. The coin bears the image and the name of the emperor. Jesus essentially says, if the emperor wants this trinket, let him have it. And then Jesus teaches them...."Give to God the things that are God's."

If a coin that bears the emperor's image belongs to him then what of a human being? A human being created by God bears the image of God. How much more than does a person belong to God? Jesus is saying, Give to God what belongs to God – give to God your all. I believe this is the Good News: We belong to God. No matter what happens, no matter what life throws our way, we belong to God.

I have been reading through vestry minutes written while St. Paul's was a Mission. The first entry date is April 1, 1956. With the exception of the date they could have been written six months ago. There is discussion about differences of opinion regarding liturgy, how to attract new members and how to make-up a budget shortfall. There is even a comment by a priest, and I quote, "We all long for the past and the customs we practiced when we were younger." That was written 64 years ago. It seems that while it may feel like we are in the midst of change and uncertainty; maybe we are really just in the midst of how things are and have always been.

Sixty-four years ago, God brought those intrepid people through the challenges of starting a new church and has brought them through all the challenges since. Why would we ever doubt God's presence with us now? God is and has always been with us. My hope is that we hold on to this truth and know it in our hearts. Our commitment to our church and to our community remains as crucial as ever. Nothing has changed. We are and will always be God's people. Believe it. For Jesus, who bears the face of God, has given us his word.



God asks us to be good stewards with all the gifts he has bestowed upon us. With the continued support of our pledging members, St. Paul's will be able to continue our wonderful church life, ministries of outreach, and many other possibilities at our new home at FUMC.

Please prayerfully consider your commitment of support with a heart of worship and desire for a Christ centered way of living. Stewardship Sunday is October 25th. Please return your pledge card in response to God's call in your life.

*Judy Robel & Jeff Zabor
Stewardship Committee*

***Coming soon - A very special parish meeting on our change and transition.
Stay tuned!***

New Worship Time!

Going forward, we have switched to a worship time of **8:30 am** in order to accommodate the worship service of the new owners of St. Paul's. We will continue this time at FUMC as well.

Outside Bricks

Outside St. Paul's are several bricks that were inscribed back when there was a fundraiser for the new addition. If you donated one in the past and would like to keep your brick(s), please notify the office and it will be set aside for you. They will need to be picked up by the end of the month. Otherwise, they will remain here with the church at 3706 St. Paul Ave.

Servants for October 25 Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts

Rick Carlstedt - *Usher*
Rick Carlstedt - *Lector*
Judy Robel - *Intercessor*
Jeff Zabor - *Epistle Reader*
Beth Lukas - *Vestry Person of the Day*



The Rev. Canon Paula Clark

The Rev. Edwin D. Johnson

The Rev. Dr. Fulton L. Porter, III

The Rev. Winnie Varghese

The Standing Committee has announced the slate of candidates for the 13th Bishop of Chicago. Information about the candidates, including each candidate's short introductory video, spiritual autobiography, resume, and answers to the essay questions asked by the Search & Nomination Committee, can be found on the [Bishop Search and Transition website](#). The Electing Convention will take place virtually on Saturday, December 12, 2020.

The Transition Committee has scheduled a series of virtual Candidate Conversations to provide the people of the diocese the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the candidates for bishop prior to the election. The conversations are scheduled for various times from November 5-14. Visit the [Bishop Search and Transition website](#) for more information and to see the complete schedule.

On the Calendar

Sunday, October 25 - ***Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts***
New Time - 8:30 am!!

Sunday, October 25 - ***Pledge Sunday***

Sunday, November 1 - ***All Saints Day***

Sunday, November 8 - ***First Sunday at FUMC***

St. Paul's Prayer List ***Week of October 25 - October 31***

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: Jenn, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Shane, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Peter, Debbie, Peter, Owen, Patsy, Debbie, Camilla, Jennifer, Shirley-Patricia, Al, and Barbara

For those celebrating birthdays: Don Jaworski (Oct. 27) and Ashley Pecoraro (Oct. 30)

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: DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com

101 Reasons to be Episcopalian!

#90 *Episcopalians don't tend to be demonstrative, no one expects you to shout Amen or Hallelujah! On the other hand, it's okay if you do.*

-- Donna H. Barthle, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

#16 *We do not give simple answers to complex questions. Instead, we offer tools that help people develop a sustaining faith.*

-- B. Lance Moody, Diocese of Oklahoma

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