

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

**The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.**



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
McHenry, IL



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Weekly ePistle ~ October 7, 2020

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BECAUSE  
GOD IS WITH US,  
WE NEED NOT  
FEAR WHAT IS  
AHEAD OF US.

### ***Words from Wardens***

The message that God is with us has been a very consistent message that we have been hearing at St. Paul's. While we don't know what God has planned for us, I truly believe he is asking us to not be afraid, so I take great comfort in these words above. Last Sunday in her sermon, Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts reiterated this message when she said God is with us and is showing us the way forward. She also reminded us that God is not giving up; He will continue to move us forward, asking us to have hope and faith to care for the gifts we have been given.

We are about to move into a new chapter in the life of St. Paul's, and God has indeed been generous with the gifts he has given us. While it is never easy to close the door to the past, I am excited about the new opportunities that we have been given by God. St. Paul's has a history of new beginnings starting with the letter sent to the Diocese in 1955 requesting Mission status. In 2020, 65 years later, we are once again putting our trust and faith in God to lead us forward.

The Vestry and Finance Committee are working hard to form a structure for moving forward, and we will continue to update you on all further developments as they present themselves. In the meantime, we have met with the new owners of our building, and I can assure you that they will be good stewards of our beloved building. It is very comforting to me to know that this building will remain a house of worship that will be cherished by God's people.

God has given us many gifts, the greatest of which is a future that together we will create. In this newsletter, we officially kick off our fall Stewardship drive. Your gift of an ongoing pledge to St. Paul's is a gift of the future. In "The Parable of the Talents" (Matthew 25:14-30) we are asked to serve and glorify God with whatever gifts we have received. Pledge Sunday will be 10/25/20, when we will ask you to return your pledge cards. Please consider your pledge carefully knowing that your generosity is the start of new beginnings for St. Paul's. GOD IS WITH US, and God will guide us down our new path.

Prayerfully,

Beth Lukas ( Senior Warden )

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***From Deacon Deb***

The gospel reading for this Sunday is from Matthew 22:1-14. In this familiar parable, Jesus gives the example of a king who holds a lavish wedding feast for his son and the guests refuse to come. In his frustration and anger, the king invites strangers from the streets and then his banquet hall is filled with guests. The one particular person of interest is the one who comes to the banquet not wearing a wedding robe. This one is thrown out with dire consequences.

Jesus often uses the imagery and words associated with a wedding. He does this especially when describing the Kingdom of God. Perhaps one of His reasons is that a wedding is a happy and joyous occasion. A wedding celebrates the love between two people that is so strong that it unites families, forms new bonds. A wedding holds the promise of new life and as such is much more than the sum of its parts. A wedding is held out to us as an abundant gift.

In the parable, the guests that refused to come are those too occupied with their own lives to recognize the gift that is being offered. Sadly, they will never know what they are missing. The one who comes not wearing a wedding robe is symbolic of those who will not shed their old clothes, will not change their old way for the promise of the new. They are willing to partake, yet unwilling to give.

As I contemplate what this parable is saying to me I am filled with a renewed commitment to our parish. It seems we are being given an invitation to step out in faith and celebrate the love of God that is so strong it unites us. God invites us to the wedding feast each moment of our lives. With each breath we are given a choice to refuse, to stay in our old ways, or to put on the garment of Christ and dance.

By the grace of God may we all choose to dance.

In Christ,  
Deacon Deborah

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Good day fellow parishioners,

St. Paul's is alive and well as we move into the next chapter of our journey together. We anticipate our expenses will be changing for the better with the coming changes we have made. While the pandemic did present limitations on the church, COVID has opened new doors for outreach. Our St. Paul's family will need to identify and attempt to meet some of these new opportunities to help others while adhering to the COVID restrictions. Remember that your pledge is important in meeting St. Paul's mission, "serving others for the sake of Christ."

As the end of the year approaches, we are starting our Stewardship campaign once again. Pledge cards will be mailed to you and we ask that you return your pledge card back to the church in a timely fashion. This is very important as the Vestry and the finance committee use these pledge cards to plan for the year ahead. Your continued generosity is appreciated and important to us all as a church family. During the next few weeks we will be communicating about stewardship and pledging. Although stewardship is a life-long journey, now is the time of the year for pledging.

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." *2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

Please join us in thought, prayer, and in giving to our next chapter and a wonderful and prosperous 2021.

Prayerfully,

Jeffrey Zabor & Judy Robel  
Stewardship Co-Chairpersons

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### ***New Worship Time Coming Soon!***

Starting Sunday, **October 18**, we will be switching to a worship time of **8:30 am** in order to accommodate the worship service of the new owners of St. Paul's. October 4th and 11th will still be at our regular 10:00 am time.



Michelle Prickett, with Kids in Need, gratefully picked up our mittens to be distributed to children in McHenry County. We will be in touch with her about future outreach projects. Stay tuned!

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***Servants for October 11***  
***Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts***

Jim and Beth Lukas - *Ushers*  
Jim Lukas - *Lector*  
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*  
Barb Moriarty - *Epistle Reader*  
Judy Robel - *Vestry Person of the Day*

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***On the Calendar***

Sunday, October 11 - ***Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts***  
Sunday, October 18 - ***Morning Prayer / Vestry***  
***New Time - 8:30 am!!***  
Sunday, October 18 - ***Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts***  
Sunday, October 25 - ***Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts***  
Sunday, October 25 - ***Pledge Sunday***

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***St. Paul's Prayer List***  
***Week of October 11 - October 17***

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, Barbara, and Bart

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Marilyn Bell (Oct. 14) and Bella Pecoraro (Oct. 17)

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***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](mailto:DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com)

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***101 Reasons to be Episcopalian!***

#11 *At our best, Episcopalians can respectfully disagree about a great many things - and still break bread together.*

-- Barbara Tensen Ross, Diocese of Oregon

#79 *We eat, drink, and are merry, for we live in the Kingdom of our Lord Christ.*

-- Ken Guthrie, Diocese of Alabama

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