



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ November 25, 2020

St. Paul's Online Worship Opportunity for November 29th

At this time, we cannot meet in person, but we can still meet virtually! We will be hosting our first service via Zoom this Sunday! Join us at 8:30 am for Morning Prayer led by Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts. Even if you don't have a computer, you can join by phone!

To join by computer, click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/93391917472>

To participate by phone, dial 312-626-6799 and be prepared to enter the ID below.

Our meeting ID is 933 9191 7472.

We hope you will be able to join us (virtually!) for this first Sunday in Advent!



Words from Wardens

Dear All,

Welcome snowfall! What a beautiful morning! I hope this finds you all well, warm and safe.

It saddens me that once again we cannot be together to worship in person. I am confident that this will pass in time especially if we all do our part in observing both state and local safety guidelines regarding the pandemic.

As the end of the year draws near Rev. Shanley Roberts, Lisa, Beth and Deb and I are working together to begin an online service. More details on that can be found below.

This is the time for Thanksgiving, while many of you (including myself) will not be celebrating Thanksgiving in the traditional way. What doesn't change is to recognize what you are thankful for. Don't lose sight of that and for anyone that needs a Kickstarter there you can start by being thankful you are able to read this very message. In the spirit of Thanksgiving I'm thankful to be here with you on God's great earth. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones.

Jeffrey Zabor, Junior Warden

From Deacon Deb

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me"
Matthew 25:40

In this gospel Jesus clearly defines what it takes to love God. Given the nature of our relationship with God, creator vs created, infinite vs finite, immortal vs mortal, supreme being vs child of dust, the task Jesus sets before us is astonishingly simple – Love those who are hungry, thirsty, sick, or in prison, and you will love me. It can't get more straightforward than that. We show, demonstrate, our love for God by loving those in need.

In the past, our Advent giving took the form of baskets set around our church Christmas tree which we delightfully filled with baby things. This year our support for young mothers will need to take on a different look. Rather than baby items, we are asking that monetary support be mailed to the church with the indication "First Way". We will then mail one check to First Way in Johnsbury in the name of St. Paul's Church. We thank you for your generosity.

St. Teresa of Avila wrote, "The aim of prayer, the purpose of our spiritual life is to give birth to good works and good works alone." I hope we can take these words to heart. Good works is our purpose, our only reason for being church. We love God by bringing God's love into the world. This is all God asks of us.

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah

Advent Giving

One of St. Paul's most beloved traditions has been our Advent tradition of filling Moses Baskets. While so much has changed with the way we do things today, we have not lost sight of Outreach and the impact it makes on our community, especially in these times of great need.

We will not be able to fill our Moses Baskets and Food for Thought shopping cart in person, but our Advent Outreach **will** go on! Instead of filling our baskets with clothing and food, we have decided to ask for monetary contributions which will, in turn, be donated to First Way Pregnancy and District 155. A letter will be sent shortly giving you the option to donate to these St. Paul's adopted ministries. Please be generous as we reach out to those in our community who are in need during this holiday season.

Contact Information

With our changing times today, it is very important that we have current contact information for each member of our parish. We are currently using Constant Contact as our way to communicate last minute changes or any other timely news. In addition to making sure that we have your current email address, it is very important that you check your email regularly to make sure that you have the latest information.

2021 Vestry

Here is the slate for Vestry for the upcoming year. They will be up for approval at our January Annual Meeting.

Senior Warden - Beth Lukas

Junior Warden - (*Vacant*)

Returning members - Kathy Biggerstaff, Rick Carlstedt, Judy Robel

New member - Heather Dodge

New member - Jeff Lynaugh

New member - Al Robel

Thank you, new members, for your commitment to St. Paul's!

St. Paul's Prayer List Week of November 29 - December 5

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, Amy, Tim, Jim, Marty, Barb, Marianne, Jim, Lucy, Vic, and Eleanor

Current prayers: Jenn, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Shirley-Patricia, Sheila, and Colton

For those celebrating birthdays: Carol Toft

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!

#9 *Anglicans do good deeds to increase understanding of God, not out of fear or to earn admission to heaven.*

-- Robert L. Neal III, Diocese of Chicago

#43 *We welcome the faithful, the seeker, and the doubter.*

-- Diana Smith, Diocese of Washington

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