



THE LEAVEN

January 2018
(#439)

*The newsletter of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church*



*You are my place of quiet
retreat. I wait for Your
Word to renew me.*

Psalms 119:114



Dear Friends,

Well, now you know what Jesus looks like, go and find him everywhere!

A blessed Epiphany to you. Church nerds will remember that strictly speaking the Christmas season could be said not to end until the Feast of the Presentation (of the infant Jesus) (in the Temple) on February 2nd, but it has already been lapped and overlapped by stories of a 30 year old Jesus being baptized, the calling of the disciples, the arrival of the Wise Eastern Persons, if we had time for them (we didn't), and we are careening away from Christmas as fast our legs can carry us because there is just so much to cram in here. But do you remember what Jesus looks like?

At Christmas the nebulous Word, through whom is made all that is-was-will be, the essence of things, is a baby. Just pause there for what a polite person would consider a reasonable length of time. And now that you have recovered some inkling of what that looks like, go and find Jesus everywhere. Or, in the words of the Baptismal Covenant that we joined ourselves to again as Jesus went down into the river last Sunday, "seek and serve Christ in all (no exceptions) persons." For in Jesus' words, "the Kingdom of heaven has drawn very near." This is the season of making God visible – Epiphany.

Not coincidentally it is also what we believe our little Church is most called to do and to be. We are barreling towards the Annual Meeting next Sunday when we will hear the reports of 2017 and prime ourselves for what comes next. My hope, though, is you can remember Christmas well enough to go out and find it, go out and keep declaring it, now, in our world, enabled and supported by this community of Godly people with whom, either in the flesh, or in spirit, we all sang and prayed so fervently at Christmas just two short weeks ago.

We often speak of ourselves as being an "Easter people." Well maybe we are equally an "Epiphany people." At least for this season the priority is clear. A blessed Christmas-Epiphany to you.

Your friend in Christ,
Michael

Lent is just around the corner

Ash Wednesday, February 14, will be on us before we know it, and Lenten Lunches, and the whole season of Lent. There's work to do, and if you'd like to be involved please speak with Fr. Michael or Kris Warehime, or a member of the Vestry. The tentative theme for this year's Lenten Lunch Speaker Series is "Wind, Fire, and Flood, and the Still Small Voice."





Vestry Notes

The Vestry met on December 21, 2017, at 6:30 PM. The following is a short summary of topics discussed.

- We reviewed the year 2017, and made a snapshot list of events and accomplishments for discussion.
- We looked at where do we want to apply our efforts on the budget and otherwise for 2018.
- We reviewed last year's Vestry retreat priorities, and discussed results of those priorities.
- The 2018 Vestry composition was discussed, and possibilities for filling the positions of retiring members.

The Meeting ended with prayers and adjournment.

Blessings,

Gary Johnson



THE ANNUAL MEETING IS JANUARY 21, 2018



Immediately following the service there will be a potluck lunch downstairs. The meeting will follow the lunch.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to accept the budget proposed for 2018 and elect the wardens and vestry.

There are vacancies for Vestry Members. If God is calling you or you have discerned a call in someone else then please give your name to the Nominating Committee (Gary Johnson, Mike Gjerdahl, Betty Kristo, Steve Smith)



January 2018

A Mighty Thanks!

Putting up and taking down the Christmas banner and the greens is much easier now thanks to the efforts of Robert Schmidt of RHome Construction. Bob generously donated his time to install a rope and pulley system for raising and lowering the high hanging decorations. Now no one needs to climb to the top of the church, making it much safer, especially for those of us who don't climb like we used to. Gary J., Mike G., Marty Z. and Scott B. provided "technical advice".

Mardi Gras!

Save the date February 11 for a St. Paul version of Mardi Gras. What form will it take? You will see once more details are **unmasked** in the coming weeks!

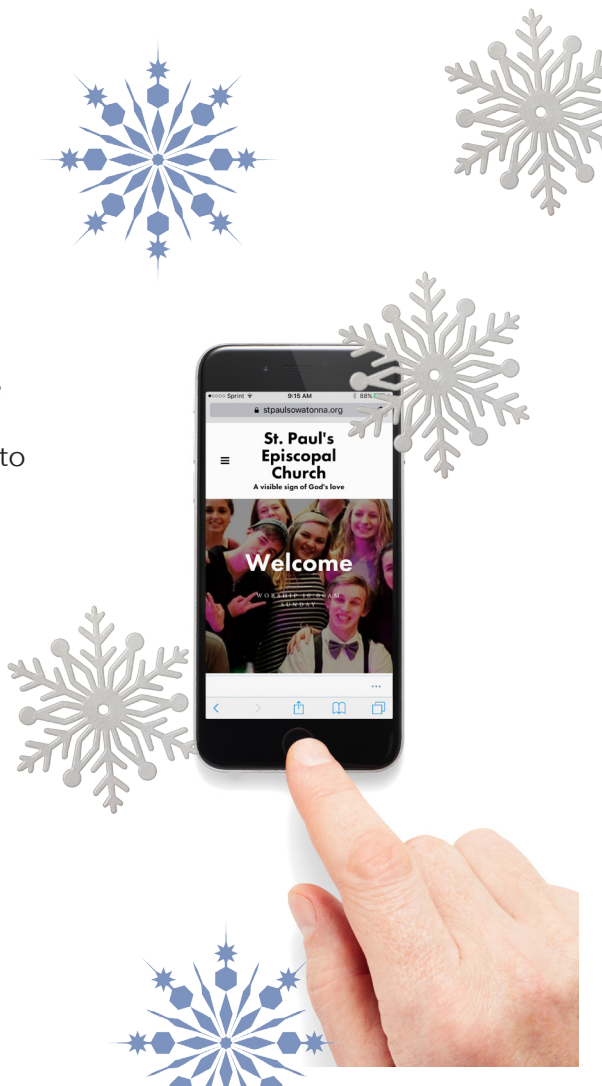


Choir during Lent

St. Paul's Choir is taking a short break Feb. 4 and 11th. When we resume Feb. 18, we will be in the season of Lent. Anyone wishing to join choir during lent and Easter is most welcome. If you've ever considered singing in choir now just might be the time. We practice Sun. morning at 8:45. The more the merrier!

Instead of giving something up for Lent this year, why not take something on? Join Choir!

January 2018



Lay Schedule

Date	Lay Reader	Lector	Chalice	Ushers
Jan 14	Kristin	Matt	Steve	Gary and Mike G
Jan 21	Jackie	Mary	Janet	Terri and Mike W
Jan 28	Julianna	Francy	Diane	Gretchen and Marty
Feb 4	Mark	Nan	Maggie	Julie and Gayle
Feb 11	Scott	Maggie	Francy	Steve and Sheryl
Feb 18	Kristin	Matt	Steve	Pete and Maggie
Feb 25	Jackie	Mary	Janet	Terri and Mike W
Mar 4	Julianna	Francy	Diane	Gretchen and Marty



If you make a schedule change,
please leave a message on the church phone.

Coffee Committees

January

Amy Wobschall
Judie Buerman
Gretchen Zinsli
Kari Gigstead
Katie Vyncke
Kelly Karstens
Robin McKey
Francy Hall
Angie Parsons

February

Myrtle Brittain
Lisa Boutelle
Judy Erck
Sharol Tamburro
Ann Henjum
Bobbi Otteson
Sue Mahlman
Joanne Peterson
Jodie Boisen

Altar

January

Robin
McKey
Betty Kristo

February

Janet Dixon



Cleo's MEW sings

Cleo is on vacation this month.



Women of St. Paul's

There will be a WoSP meeting on Sunday, January 28 immediately after church to discuss the Lenten Lunches.

Reminder: Potluck following church January 21! Yum!

See Janet's minutes from the December meeting attached to this issue. Thank you, Janet!

T-Shirts

T-Shirts are still available. \$20 each. Discounts available for multiples. Call the office for details.



LEAVEN is published monthly to keep the people of St. Paul's informed and united in thought.

This issue of LEAVEN is made possible by the efforts of:

Fr. Michael Tippett
Kristin Warehime

Got News?

**If you have an item for
The Leaven, please have it to
Kristin Warehime by the fifth
of each month.**

kristin.warehime@charter.net

For more information on events at St. Paul's, visit our website: <http://stpauls-owatonna.wikispaces.com>



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