

ALLELUIA!
HE IS RISEN
INDEED!

Dear Friends:

Happy Easter everyone! I hope your days of celebrating the resurrection were profound and fulfilling. I don't think I have ever seen a Holy Week in which everyone seems so focused in their participation, or participated so mindfully. You have heard it said that the word "companion" means someone with whom you break bread; In that case, we were journeying in very good company this Easter. It was evident at each stage as we worshiped and ate and worshiped again together, each piece facilitated by cooks, altar guild, musicians, actors, story tellers and liturgists intent on bringing us to a particular moment in the story. Apparently men can cook (and make fire) and our teenagers can tell the story, and new things can be found in what was old.

We try very hard to enter intentionally into Holy Week. And then – bang – Easter and alleluia and we seem to be expected just to take that as the happy end. But look closely, that's not what happened. Instead the weeks after Easter start in a promise, a glimpse of hope, terminated by death, and that's just the beginning. The disciples and their families walk away, the things they thought they knew "seem shaken and untrue." Read Luke's account in chapter 24 and notice how reluctant they were to come to grips with what happened next. The empty tomb is a frightening thing, to the women and to the men who went to check. The strange accounts of the women are no impediment to the disciples who walk away from Jerusalem. One of the disciples walking away is called Clopas, and one of the women at the tomb may be his mother. Whatever evidence she presented, it didn't make him shout Alleluia.

As the disciples walk away they find themselves sitting with Jesus at table,

they recognize him "in the breaking of the bread." Their companion. Their hearts, they say, "were burning." So what now? For them or for us?

These two, Clopas and the other one, turn back towards Jerusalem. What happens in them next is not known. But some of what they have discovered is clear. They have been shown something beyond their imagining and now they are "it." Where once there was Jesus, now there are others, as John says, "given the power to be the children of God." As Barbara Brown Taylor said, "this was not the food they ordered."

Some things are easy to grasp, or easy-er. Footwashing, for example. Love each other like this. The commands to love God, love neighbor, do good, not to judge. All these things we have from before Easter.

But there is a whole catalogue of teaching that occurs through and after Easter too, more obscure, harder to grasp, and much more significant.

Implicit in the Last Supper was the idea that we are to love and serve like Jesus. The less palatable part of the meal is that this love and service comes at a cost. Love and serve as I do, Jesus says, with the same consequences.

This may be the hardest thing to get our heads around – the breaking bread, and the drinking wine part of the meal, because they seem to predict, or be predicated upon, disaster, dismemberment. But this companion of ours invites us on the whole journey. Have you got to the part yet, where your heart burns?

*Your friend in Christ,
Michael*

Vestry Notes

Lent and Holy Week are behind us and the fellowship continues at St. Paul's. We have been busy since Easter Week with Wednesday nights. Many have stepped forward to help cook and teach the children. The food and fellowship have been excellent and well attended. We represent ages 1 to 90 on Wednesday nights, with 20-25 in attendance each week. If you

haven't joined us yet, please consider it. We would love to see you!

Lower Tanner and the Sunday School closets were cleaned and look beautiful. When the snow finally clears, there will be more opportunities to help around church. Please consider helping out where you can. Many hands make light work and more fun!

Gretchen

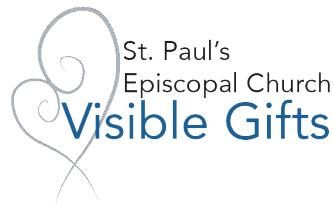
Help!

Search your cupboards and canvass your friends.

Do you (or someone you know, it doesn't have to be you) have something you don't necessarily want, that might catch someone else's eye?

That's the way we hope to raise funds this Spring. Find the things, and bring them to auction.

With just two weeks to go we need your help, so please engage your imagination. At the



moment we have very little to work with.

Our budget this year is very dependent on this fundraising so please help if you can.

If you find something, or a friend with something, then bring it to church or have us collect it and let's see if it will stand up at auction.

DATES . . . DATES . . . DATES . . . DATES . . . DATES . . .

Women of St. Paul's

Next meeting: Sunday, April 29
after church. We will discuss the
Lenten Lunches and upcoming
summer activities. Let Kris know
if you have agenda items.

Bumping into Jesus after Easter

Food, friends, a little learning &
prayers. Wednesdays at 6:00.

John Sullivan Ordination

June 26 at 6:00 pm
St. Mark's Cathedral

A number of us would like to
attend. If you are interested or
have questions, talk to Gretchen
or Fr. Michael.

Braveheart in Ballet

Cyrus Braveheart will be
performing Swan Lake with
the Mankato Ballet Company
on Sunday, May 6 at the State
Theater in New Ulm. He is the
male lead.

Scholarship Applications are due!

See Myrtle, Steve Judd or Fr,
Michael if you have questions.

Harry Wenger Marching Band Festival

The marching band festival
ends right outside St. Paul's.
We are looking for volunteers
to hand out water. See Gretchen
if you are able to help.

Church Mice



St. Paul's Secret Pals

When was the last time you made a new friend? Starting in May, you can join others in getting to know and celebrate a new special friend at St. Paul's!

St. Paul's Secret Pals is very similar to the Secret Santa idea many of us already know. However, instead of buying gifts, the idea is to get to know, celebrate, pray for and encourage someone you might otherwise not talk much to at

church. In May of 2019, at a special lunch, you will reveal yourself to your secret pal.

If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Krug at 507-213-9743. If you are ready to sign up, fill out the form below and drop it in the collection plate or pick up a form at church and drop it off at the office.

Forms are due May 30, 2018.

*"Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up."
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

St. Paul's Secret Pals

Name: _____

Address: _____

Three fun, meaningful or important dates your pal can celebrate:

Date

Event

i.e. 1/1/01

birthday

Is there anything important you pal should know about you?

Cleo's MEW/sings

I don't mean to sound cranky and out of sorts but the person I live with certainly is both! She is muttering about another blizzard! Is that possible? Surely that can't happen, it is the middle of April! There should be flowers and green grass.

Anyway, if you are snowed in again, you can read your Leaven and catch up on what's going on at St Paul's. I've been looking at lots of baby pictures of little Oliver being baptized with all the Brittains looking on. Francy and Ross were off to see Ross's daughter Emily and new baby, Eliza Grace, in Washington state. Keep Emily in your prayers as she is having a problem with her platelets. Also showing off baby pictures was St. Paul friend, Peggy Koan (you may remember her as doing a Lenten lunch talk last year). Her brand new grandson was born February 14 and little Eliza was born February 16. They are both absolutely adorable. Hear Lynn was also off to Canada to see her grandchild but haven't seen pictures.

People who have shared vacation news were Joanne Peterson off to Arizona, Jack and Diane Spitzack were in Mexico and then off to Las Vegas for work. Work!? Mary Levine was off to the Caribbean to visit Jennifer and family.

Heard she had a lovely time. Ann Deetz and son Matt were in Arizona and left Tom at home to take care of Oliver who has a bad paw. But hear it is getting better. And Tom will get to go to Arizona to visit his parents later. Also in Arizona was Julianna and Roger Skluzacek. And then Julianna went to Maryland. She was working with the writers of *Santa Diaries* to write *Santa Diaries 2*. I'm impressed!

And speaking of plays, Gail Plathe worked on costumes for *Street Car Named Desire* in February and Jackie Ostlund is working on the crew for *My Man Godfrey* coming up this month at LTO.

Hear there is a big group from St. Paul's working on TEC next week including Emma, Evie, Chad, Ambry, Cyrus, Mark and Rebecca, Gretchen and Marty, Nikki and Fr. Michael. Hope they all have a great time.

And hear Marty Zinsli has a new job as manager of facilities and services at the Faribault hospital and clinic. Closer to home and less traveling, Marty? Hope you love it!

Also heard that Emma Zinsli is in the marching band again this year. They have started practicing already. They have

to be pretty tough if they are practicing outside!

We have some ailing folks to keep in our prayers. Drew Meyer is better but has had some ups and downs! Going back to work soon. Judy Erck had cataract surgery and is doing great, Carol McKernan is well on her way recovering from surgery and has been back to church, Tom Knutson is home but still has a long recovery so say some extra prayers for him and Sharol. Gail and Pat Plathe's daughter, Siri, is slowing recovering from a concussion as is Myrtle's daughter Wendy. Nicki Swanum is recovering from hip replacement surgery and back to driving. She lives next door to Mike and Nan Gjerdahl who both need our prayers. Also ailing is Maria and Neil

Dodd's niece Kathy who was just diagnosed with leukemia. Maria is on her way to Mexico to see her and is taking one of our prayer shawls for her.

And just a reminder from Janet Dixon: you can get a prayer shawl for a family member or friend or yourself by just asking for one! They are free, you can pick one out from what we have on hand or request a certain color but might have to wait a few weeks for it.

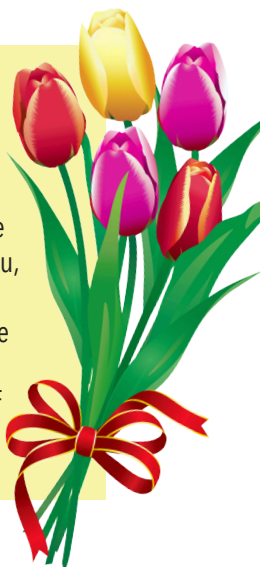
Snow birds, Pete and Maggie Dixon are back looking tan and relaxed but haven't seen any sign of Leanne Alt and Gary Johnson. Are they waiting til they are sure winter is gone!

Send me your news and see you next month!



Wanted: Altar Flowers

Have you ever wondered how we come to have beautiful flowers on our altar each Sunday? They are donated by parishioners just like you! There is a sign-up sheet next to the door to Upper Tanner. Choose a date that is meaningful to you, or choose a date just because. The cost is \$30, which you can pay by dropping the money in the collection plate with a note marked "flowers". Betty purchases and arranges the flowers, and you can take them home after the service. Talk to Betty if you have questions or if you want a particular type of flower.



Earth Day 2018

Earth Day–April 22, 2018–marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement started in 1970. Earth Day is now celebrated globally in more than 193 countries. There are several ways we can save our earth and one way is recycling.

The theme for 2018 Earth Day: End Plastic Pollution.

Are we recycling at St. Paul's? Yes, we are. Could we do a better job of recycling? Yes. In the next few months we will be looking at improving our recycling. For now, when you recycle please empty your plastic bottles first and rinse out any can goods, plastic containers etc. There is a recycle bin outside Rev. Michael's office and two different bins in the lower level (kitchen and hall area). Owatonna Waste Management has made it easy to recycle. We do not need to sort out our recycling. Have you heard about the Great Pacific garbage patch? Take time to Google this. We plan to have more information about how St. Paul's can become greener in the next Leaven. Maybe we need a "Green Team" at St. Paul's in the future? If this is an interest of yours or you have any suggestions for us to be greener St. Paul's let me know.

Joanne Peterson
St. Paul's Vestry Member
Cell: 763-670-2885

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CAN BE RECYCLED:

- Clean glass bottles and jars
- Metal cans and empty aerosol containers
- Mixed plastic recycling - plastic bottles, containers, lids and tub (#1-7). Dairy and juice cartons are OK. No foam, plastic wrap or plastic bags). Bags can be recycled at many of our stores.
- Paper - news, office, junk mail, magazines, paper food boxes, cardboard, books and clean pizza boxes (I am not sure I have ever had a clean pizza box).

HERE IS AN EARTH DAY 2018 SUGGESTION:

Use reusable bottles for water, reusable bags for shopping and reusable mugs for coffee.



Lay Schedule

| Date | Lay Reader | Lector | Chalice | Ushers | Counter |
|----------|------------|--------|---------|--------------------|----------|
| April 22 | Scott | Steve | Francy | Maggie and Pete | Jack |
| April 29 | Jackie | Matt | Janet | Julie and Gayle | Julie |
| May 6 | Julianna | Marion | Diane | Steve and Sheryl | Drew |
| May 13 | Mark | Mary | Maggie | Terri and Mike W | Mark |
| May 20 | Kristin | Francy | Janet | Gretchen and Marty | Gretchen |
| May 27 | Scott | Nikki | Francy | Pete and Maggie | Francy |
| June 3 | Jackie | Matt | Diane | Julie and Gayle | Kristin |



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

Coffee Committees

April

Julie Conlin
Gayle Kozelka
Maggie Dixon
Deb Buck
Sheryl Keith
Carol McKernan
Jan Robran
Bernie Reisenauer
Julia Miller
Sharon Kramer

March

Mary Levine
Mary Wright
Lynn Seykora
Barb Judd
Anne Deetz
Janet Tippet
Jackie Ostlund
Amy Madsen
Maria Dodd
Ann Chester-Jones

Altar Guild

April

Deb Carlson
Sharol Tamburro
Betty Kristo

May

Myrtle Brittain
Lisa Boutelle

"A cup of coffee
shared with a friend is
happiness tasted and
time well spent."

Anonymous



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

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For more information about
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St. Paul's Episcopal Church—
Owatonna.



**APRIL SNOW
BRINGS MAY ... ?**