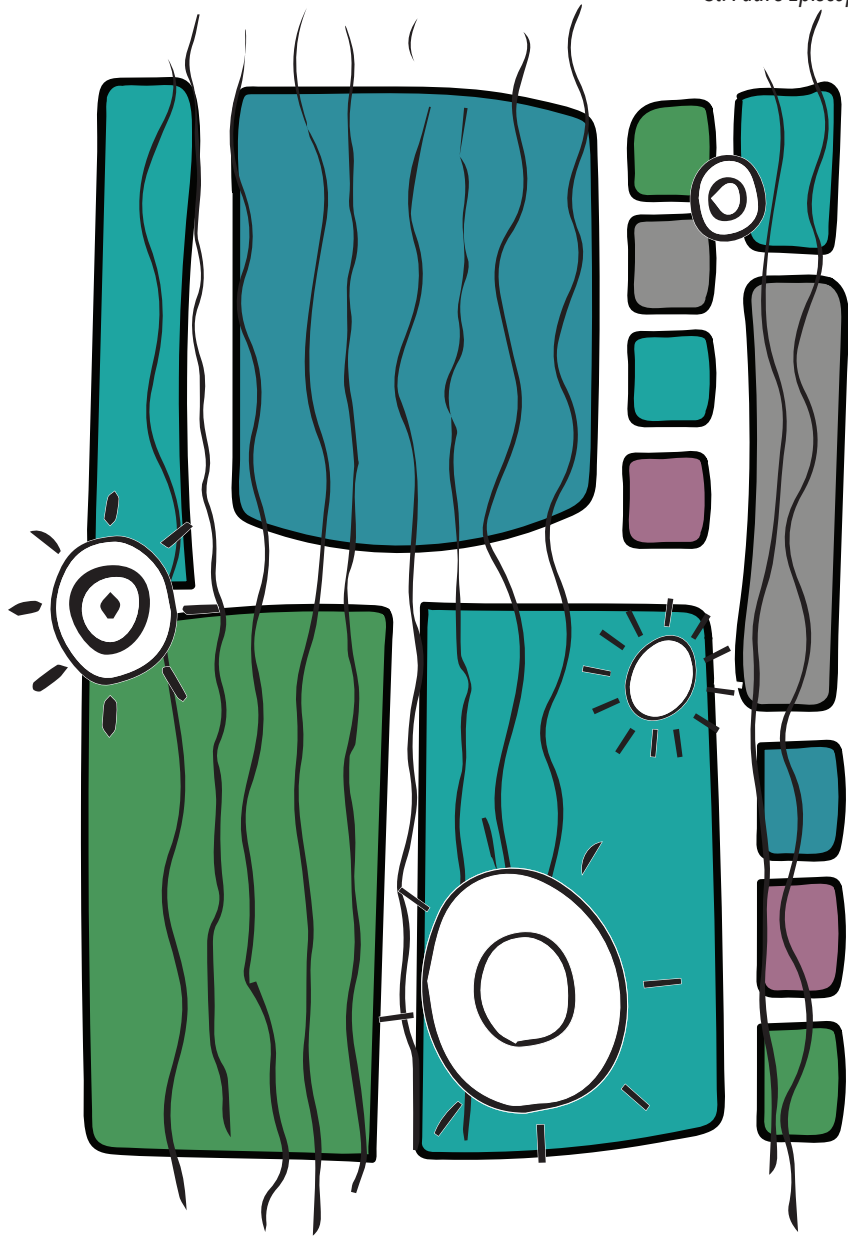




# THE LEAVEN

May/June 2018  
(#443)

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



Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

Dear Friends:

Time to put the cat among the pigeons on another sad, sad day.

It is not the guns. It is not the mental health.

It is something much more fundamental, and here it is, simple and appalling:

This country, more than the vast majority of other societies, believes that it is acceptable to kill other people.

Oh no! Only under certain exceptional circumstances, you say. But the exceptions we make here are far beyond what would be acceptable elsewhere. That is made plain in the terrible statistics. Or the daily, daily, daily news. The exceptions have become the numbing, permissive norm. And this norm is not unconnected to all sorts of other permissions we have granted ourselves, all sorts of "exceptionalism."

My question is, how can we be so arrogant as to excuse ourselves? God is judge, and God is clear. Everyone that we contemplate killing is made in the image of God. No exceptions. It is not simply that we skirt around the commandment to love our neighbor – it is worse than that. We say we love God, or honor God, but we make normal the killing of what God loves. Both things cannot be true at the same time. The facts say clearly that our profession of faith is just lip service, and a lie.

How can we deal with this pervasive idolatry? We cannot be a murderous society and a righteous, merciful, just, compassionate, Godly one at the same time. The tension is unbearable and will break us.

The only answer I can offer is that we seek God and the truth more closely, and grace.

No one feels this tension more acutely than our young people.

At this time of year it is my privilege to read lots of letters and notes from teens about to step into the world on their own. Here are a couple of excerpts from this spring:

One young person writes of St. Paul's and Teens Encounter Christ. "[The people] you encounter are so amazing they won't judge... I want to say thank you ... it has changed my life."

And from another teenager who has struggled for her place in the world: "Thank you for everything... for making me feel welcome, a part of God's community. Without the emphasis on us all being made in God's image, I am certain I would not be here, or really, even alive."

So often in reading these letters the wisdom that emerges is that the greatest, most damaging sin we can commit against another person is to diminish them. Conversely, the greatest gift we can give another is to value them (because God values them) as we promised at baptism, "to seek and to serve Christ in all persons."

It is time to do it loudly, publicly, without exception or excuse, and stop playing gracious host to a murderous, idolatrous, and ungodly norm.

*Your friend in Christ,  
Michael*

# Vestry Notes

The Vestry of St. Paul's met on May 17. We voted in favor of supporting the initiative for becoming a "Greener Community" at St. Paul's Owatonna. The goal of the Green Team Initiative is to reduce waste, reuse when possible, educate each other, and reduce our carbon footprint on this earth. Initial steps include stopping usage of plastic silverware and using "real dishes" as much as possible. If you are interested in helping this worthy cause, contact Joanne Peterson.

Thank you for everyone that helped to make "Bumping into Jesus after Easter" a wonderful success. We had many helpers in the kitchen, Mary Levine taught the children, and many of all ages (1-90) came to enjoy food, stories, and fellowship. Announcements will be made soon about the next series. Don't miss it!

Are you interested in becoming more involved at St. Paul's? Do you have special talents or gifts that you would like to share? Talk to Father Michael or a Vestry Member! Some current opportunities include: Fundraising Committee, Christian Education, Ushers, Readers, Acolytes, Mowing and Gardening....the list could go on for days. Many hands make light

work, join the fun and get to know your church family.

Graduation Sunday is June 10. Please come help us to celebrate our high school graduates, Chad Erickson and McKenzie Karsten.

Save the Date!! The Annual Church Garage Sale will be on July 27-28. You may drop off items for the sale from July 15 through 5 pm July 26. Please ask Diane or anyone on Vestry if you have questions.

## *Upcoming Dates to Note:*

June 10: Graduation Sunday;  
Second Sunday recipient is  
Hospitality House

June 16: Harry Wenger Marching  
Band Parade

June 26: John Sullivan Ordination  
at St. Mark's Cathedral

June 28: Vestry

July 8: Second Sunday recipient is  
San Jose Obrero

July 15 to July 26: Bring items for  
Garage Sale

July 27-28: Church Garage Sale

August 12: Second Sunday  
recipient is Park and Rec  
Scholarship Fund.

August 26: San Jose Obrero

## **Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

Meeting: April 29, 2018 11:30 am

Call to Order: Kris Warehime, President

Treasurer Report: J. Ostlund \$4,542.33 (This to include Lenten Lunches Profits.)

### ***Discussion on Lenten Lunches***

1. J. Ostlund reported that the Net Profit from Lenten Lunches (2018) was \$1,265.10.

2. This year's earnings are comparable to the last few years.

3. The numbers for attendees were low the first 3 lunches. Many of lunches later averaged 50-60 attendees. This led into the discussion that our advertising was late this year and that may have been one reason. It was also mentioned competition with other churches on Ash Wednesday could be a factor.

4. The group discussed the many forms of advertising available to us free or with minimum charge. Ads in the Owatonna People's Press are quite expensive compared to our earnings. Suggestions were made to use social media more at the next years luncheon.

5. A motion was made by D. Spitzack and seconded by J. Dixon that we pay for half of the advertising for Lenten Lunches, \$281.00. The church will pay the remaining portion. Total advertising was \$562.00.

6. K. Warehime suggested we have an Advertising Committee to market and promote our Women of St. Paul's events. This is to include Lenten Lunches, Christmas bazaar, Summer Garage Sale etc. There was a motion made by G. Zinsli and seconded by M. Dixon.

J. Skluzacek, graciously agreed to chair this committee.

7. The proceeds from our 2018 Lenten lunches will go to Rachel's Light. This organization is still in the evolving stage but their goal will be to provide services and temporary shelter for women. This organization was selected by the Women of St. Paul's during our January 28, 2018 meeting and agreed the total proceeds would go to Rachel's Light.

8. The check was written/given for the amount of \$1265.10 to K. Warehime. She will give it to one of the leaders of this project. Hopefully we can get a photo of this exchange and have it in the OPP.

***Discussion on our Summer Garage Sale:***

1. D. Spitzack will again chair this event and will take place on the last weekend in July.
2. J. Conlin reminded ladies that we do not want any clothes or heavy equipment such as treadmills, as it is difficult sell and handle/ lift these items.
3. There will be follow-up information from the chairperson about the bazaar.

***Discussion on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and How are we doing at St. Paul's.***

1. We do have a recycle program at our church, but there is a need for improvement.
2. J. Peterson suggested we stop using all plastic utensils, cups, polystyrene (Styrofoam) cups and plastic tablecloths. We will continue to supply napkins and plates without a coating on them.
3. Strongly encourage these products not be brought to our church anymore.
4. Looking into small glassware plates to use at coffee hour.
5. We will continue to use up the paper plates we have already purchased.
6. Motion made to form a "St Paul's Green Team" made by J. Boisen and seconded by K. Brittain.
7. Members on the team include: G. Plathe, D. Spitzack, K. Warehime, L. Alt and J. Peterson.
8. This will be presented to the vestry for approval and a written statement supported our recommendations.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Joanne Peterson, Recorder

# Lay Schedule

Date	Lay Reader	Lector	Chalice	Ushers	Counter
June 3	Jackie	Matt	Diane	Julie and Gayle	Kristin
June 10	Julianna	Marion	Francy	Steve and Sheryl	Drew
June 17	Mark	Mary	Maggie	Terri and Mike W	Mark
June 24	Kristin	Francy	Janet	Gretchen and Marty	Gretchen
July 1	Scott	Nikki	Diane	Pete and Maggie	Francy
July 8	Jackie	Matt	Francy	Julie and Gayle	Kristin
July 15	Julianna	Marion	Maggie	Steve and Sheryl	Drew
July 22	Mark	Mary	Janet	Terri and Mike W	Mark



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

## Coffee Committees

### June

Betty Kristo  
Gerri Schwenker  
Kathy Brittain  
Jenni Brittain  
Laurice Anderson  
Diane Spitzack  
Leanne Alt  
Bonnie Nguyen  
Sarah Brave Heart  
Rebecca Krug

### July

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

## Altar Guild

### June

Janet Dixon  
Joanne Peterson  
Rev. Steve Judd

### July

Diane Spitzack  
Gerri Schwenker

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

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\*non-voting positions  
appointed by the vestry

For more information about  
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or join our Facebook group,  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church—  
Owatonna.

