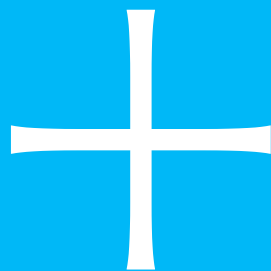




The Leaven

April 2019
(#449)

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



Alleluia

Dear Friends,

This Lent we have been speaking about faith and hope and love at our Lenten Lunches. The problem is that our human experience is one of continual brokenness. That experience persists as life goes on. If there is one thing that we all know, it is that we are mortal.

But I wonder if you also have an experience of growing holier? Maybe the foot is still bothering you, but is your heart getting bigger, your soul gentler?

Easter is fast approaching. For so much of our lives we live outside on the edge of the mystery, but here in these coming few days, we are invited inside a handful of "thin places" to live as part of the paradigm that claims to shed light on "life, the universe, and everything." You will be part of the meal (my favorite meal) on Maundy Thursday; your feet will be washed (if you like) and you can wash others; you can attend at the foot of the cross; you can shout the very first Alleluia! Be as present as you can through these last days of Lent, and Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Because these days are not simply about Jesus, they are about you.

Let me offer you this prayer again. There may be no such thing as an original prayer, and this one has many sources, but in this form it is unique to us and sums up what we have learned to proclaim at St. Paul's. And may God give you a blessed Easter.

Most Merciful God:

You called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes,
and bless our journey through the desert of Lent,
that when at length we shall come to Easter,
we may know the joy of resurrection and the fullness of your grace.
As we prepare to shout that Christ is risen,
bring us to know that so, with Christ, are we. Amen.

A few years ago I went round all the antique and junk shops I could find and bought about 2 dozen bells to ring at Easter. Well there has been some attrition, and it's time to get more. SO - if you're passing a shop that looks like it might have a bell or two... you know what to do.

*Your friend in Christ,
Michael +*



Easter Week Schedule

April 14th Palm Sunday The Sunday of the Passion 10:00 a.m.

Worship begins with a procession into church carrying palm branches and singing as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It ends with a reading of the account of his trial and crucifixion.

April 18th Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m.

A Family Supper and Eucharistic meal as we remember the first Last Supper. Everyone is welcome and the lamb stew is amazing. Please call (507) 451 5319 to register.

April 19th Good Friday 12 noon–3:00 p.m.

Meditations on the Last Seven Words of Jesus. A most moving way to enter into Easter. Seven readings and seven meditations on the last words of Jesus take us from noon to 3 p.m. (come and go at any time during the service)

April 19th Good Friday Evening Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

A simple service to recalling the events of this dark day

April 20th Saturday Easter Vigil 8:30 p.m.

The First Celebration of Easter. This is the oldest and most joyful of all the liturgies of the church, dating back to the first records we have of worship in the 2nd century. We begin in darkness, tell ancient stories of salvation, and move to the first light and "alleluia!" of Easter.

April 21st Easter Sunday 10:00 a.m.

The Day of Resurrection – Festival Holy Eucharist (and a wonderful day to be baptized!)

Bishop Election

Would you like to have a say in the election of the 10th Bishop of Minnesota? On April 27th the Search Committee will be seeking your views and discernment. Please don't be shy in stepping forward — let Michael know if you have something to offer, and we'll take it from there.

Take the following survey to let ECMN know what characteristics and visions you have for our next bishop,

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EpiscopalCMinnesota>

Free Clinic

Free Clinic sees medical patients on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of the month. Dental appointments are by appointment only. We see patients who are residents of Steele County and do not have medical or dental insurance.

Cleo's M&Nsings

Is it finally spring? The snow is almost gone, some plants are beginning to show signs of life, all kinds of birds are moving thru town and I love watching them, and there are a few spring showers around. So I have hope! Lots of traveling to report again this month. The Buermans were all off to Mexico, Pete and Jackie Ostlund have made a couple more trips to Georgia to see Alec graduate—now a Airborne Ranger, and to see their great grandson. Jack and Diane were also in Mexico and Pete and Maggie spent a week in Florida. Brian and Mollie Gfrerer and the kids spent spring break in the Dominican Republic and Gretchen and Emma were off to Florida. Deb Carlson is off to Phoenix for a wedding. Steve Smith and Sheryl Keith visited New Orleans for the first time and had a great time. The Warehimes also spent a week in Florida. Roger had to attend a conference, but they found some time to play. Heard Kris caught 5 fish—the most in her boat!—during an excursion sponsored by the conference. The whole Krug clan went on a cruise and had such a good time, they are already planning another!

Did you hear about Brady Karsten? He was one of a 3 person team in the 12-15 age group that won the state billiards championship! And he has a big trophy (bigger than me!) to prove it! Congrats to you, Brady! Nan and Janet saw the friends and family dress rehearsal of “The Savannah Sipping Society” and enjoyed it. Directed by Julianna and starring

Gail Thompson as one of 4 leads, heard it was very funny! Head over to Faribault and support the Merlin Players!

Please keep praying for our loved ones. Sandy Frelund's granddaughter, Aamira, aged 5, started chemo on Monday for cancer. One of her favorite colors is pink and Myrtle just finished a pink prayer shawl on Monday and it is on its way to Aamira. Her father is Judd, one of Sandy's twin sons. And on Saturday, March 30th, the other twin had a new baby girl! This is Jon and Ronia's second little girl. Maia is big sister. Don't know the new baby's name but Sandy is on her way to Winona so we hope she gets to St Paul's and fill us in. Also needing our prayers is Maggie Dixon as she continues her chemo. Also got news that Kathy Meillier will be having surgery for cancer, followed by chemo and/or radiation. She and husband Glen Barber and little kids Alex and Danielle need lots of prayers. So does Roger Warehime's mother who has been in the hospital for a week with pneumonia.

And say prayers for our elevator! It is still not fixed and we need it! Jackie Ostlund was helping clean up after coffee last Sunday, carrying dishes downstairs and fell! She has a badly sprained ankle and is on crutches! And we are missing some of our favorite people because they need the elevator to attend church!

Heard some good news from Bernie Reisenauer. She had some treatments that helped the pain she

Can You Give Up Paper Towels for Lent?

Even though we're well into the season, we can all still give up something for Lent: paper towels. Give them up for the weeks remaining in Lent...or a week....or a day.

The following article was shared on National Public Radio on March 10, 2019, by Kristen Hartke, a food writer based in Washington, D.C.

Keep it clean and eco-friendly at the same time. I'm a clean freak and used to go through an unseemly amount of paper towels on a daily basis, but it's easy enough to take old T-shirts or towels and cut them up to use to wipe down surfaces. (If you're cleaning surfaces that have been in contact with raw meat, poultry or fish, throw those towels in the washing machine to get them really clean.) I'm also a

fan of bamboo paper towels, which have the look and feel of traditional paper towels, yet are made from a highly renewable source and also break down in landfills in just 45 days. Better yet, they can be reused up to 100 times. I can attest to how sturdy they are because I bought a single roll of bamboo paper towels for \$7 a full year ago and still have more than half the roll left, using a single bamboo towel to clean my countertops and stove for a few weeks until it's worn out (rinse the sheet in hot water, then wring and let air dry). When I consider that I probably spent up to \$15 a month on single-use paper towels before, that roll of bamboo paper towels was a huge bargain. As for kitchen sponges, keep an eye out for those made with natural materials, because typical polyurethane sponges cannot be recycled and end up in landfills.

had walking. And her granddaughter is getting married in May so she can go to the shower in April and the wedding in May and enjoy it more! Also ailing is Harry Buerman. He hurt his eye on vacation and had to have surgery when he came home. Hear he is on the mend! We need you back in the choir soon! As you know, cats are not known for their singing on key but I sure have been enjoying the choir and watching Zachery direct.

And I have also enjoyed the crumbs I get at the Lenten lunches. Have had good talks and wonderful food with

five down and one to go!

And speaking of food, I have been getting fat on all the treats at Sunday morning coffee hours! Maybe it's time to cut back on the treats or I won't fit in my hiding places anymore!

Easter is just two weeks away. But first Palm Sunday. Hope we have a nice day so we can process outside!

Love, Cleo



Bits and Pieces

How will they find us at Easter?

These days the number one way that people find a church is online, especially at Easter. And you can help make us more visible. Go online and search for "Owatonna church episcopal" or anything like that, and click on every Saint Paul's link that appears. And if you really want to go above and beyond, leave a review on Yelp or Google as one or two wonderful people have already done.

The Sound System

The sound system is not quite fixed, but what we do know is that piece by piece it is being brought under control, and it will not cost us the approx \$4-7,000 we had expected. Thank you Andy Simon!

The Elevator

The elevator repair is still in flux. The first attempt at an early, economic, quick fix didn't remedy the problem. Now we are looking at a more complex repair, taking longer than we had hoped because elevator techs are overloaded as a result of the March floods. More news when we have it.

Confirmation & Reception

If you are baptized and wish to make an adult profession of your commitment, or wish to be received into membership in the Episcopal Church, or to reaffirm your faith, your opportunity will be here on April 27 in Faribault; please speak with Fr. Michael.

Memorial Garden

We are working on plans for the Memorial Garden and to redo our crumbling retaining wall. If you are interesting in helping to plan this, willing to help with labor, or would like to help in any other way please let Gretchen or Matt Boisen know.

Baby Shower

We will be celebrating Gloria Simon and Katie (Parsons) Vyncke on Sunday, June 2 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's. More details will follow.

Scholarship Applications Due

Now is the time to apply for the Oswald Family Scholarships. This is a one time gift for graduating seniors or adults returning to school. The scholarship was started by Charlie & Sally Oswald as a demonstration of the parish family's love for the youth of our church. To apply, send a letter outlining your goals, plans for the future and what St. Paul's church has meant to you by May 15TH to Fr. Michael Tippet at stpaulsowatonna@gmail.com or Myrtle Brittain at mcbritt1951@yahoo.com. For more information, call Myrtle at 451-9121.



Lay Schedule

Date	Lay Reader	Lector	Chalice	Ushers	Counter
Apr 7	Scott	Mary	Francy	Steve and Sheryl	Julie
Apr 14	Mark	Francy	Diane	Julie and Gayle	Francy
Apr 20	Kristin	Matt	Janet	Gretchen and Marty	Kristin
April 28	Jackie	Mary	Francy	Sheryl and Mike W	Mark
Apr 28	Nikki	Francy	Janet	Maria and	Julie
May 5	Scott	Matt	Diane	Gary and Mike W	Kristin
May 12	Mark	Gary	Francy	Julie and Gayle	Francy
May 19	Kristin	Leanne	Janet	Sheryl and Maria	Mark
May 26	Jackie	Mary	Diane	Gretchen and Marty	Julie



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

April

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

May

Mary Levine
Maria Dodd
Lynn Seykora
Barb Judd
Anne Deetz
Jackie Ostlund
Amy Madsen
Maria Dodd
Gloria Simon

April

Diane Spitzack
Gerri Schwenker

May

Robin McKey
Betty Kristo

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

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