



**In your distress you called and I rescued you,
I answered you out of a thundercloud;**

Psalms 81:7

Dear Friends,

"Children don't belong in cages," Gretchen said to me. Some truths are self-evident. This one is plain and not for debate, but that doesn't stop us as we seek to lay blame on each other, and even on the children themselves. There is but one appropriate response, and that is to look after those whom God has put into our care.

Nevertheless, this is a moral wrestling match, mostly for political reasons. It is tearing at our consciences. I'd like to offer you a way of thinking about this that you might not have considered

So. Never mind the politics; just for a moment let's remember Independence and the soul of this nation. As the fireworks soar into the sky, which words come into your mind? The words that fascinate me (as a Brit and a clergyman) contain the presumption that God lies behind all of it. These words in particular: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." Those words, and those that come after, stir the soul, bring songs to one's lips.

But now remember also that it took these many years to understand that God's endowment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness included slaves, and Indians, and, in due course, women. The genius of the Declaration is confirmed, in part, by the fact that its truth has been proven and expanded over time. As our understanding has grown, it has come as close to scripture as a political document can be. Almost like scripture, it has become a source of ethics and morality.

America's moral authority today lies in declaring to the world what a few men first bravely risked saying only for the small group they represented. Today, we know as clearly as we might know anything, that God's grace is either for everybody, or nobody, and there are no half measures. If we take it from others, we should expect to lose it too. America must be true to itself, and treat people as it itself demands to be treated all over the world.

I believe, if this situation is making you as uncomfortable as it makes me, that there will be no escape from the discomfort until we rediscover America's moral center and use the unique abundance God has given us above all nations to fix the unconscionable distress of those we are detaining. The mirror that is being held up is for us to look in: these are our cages, and our concrete floors.

Please say your prayers. There is no better way to find the moral center. Putting yourself in God's presence will sweep away the politics and bring the children firmly back into the middle of us, where they belong. You know the Bible story.

I feel I should warn you that next Sunday in church Jesus will be telling the parable of the Good Samaritan. I pray that by then we and those who serve on our behalf will have found our better selves.

Your friend in Christ,
Michael

Vintage News!

Introducing the vintage news section from the history group! In this column, you will find articles from vintage Leavens. In the third leaven published in May of 1971 it states that the "Leaven is published monthly by St. Paul's Episcopal Church as a vehicle designed to raise the communication barriers that hamper the unity of the parish." The rector at the time was the Rev. Daniel V. Pearson. Editors for the Leaven included Mary Leach and Rosemary Sobalvarro.

Today's news comes from the "Want Ads" section of the very first Leaven published in March of 1971.

"Wanted: Books of trading stamps to be used for furnishings for Upper Tanner. If you have some you would be willing to donate, please give them to Lorene Bleckert or Hazelle Kubat. Any kind will be much appreciated."

Note: Trading stamps were small paper stamps given to customers by merchants in loyalty programs. When a customer accumulated a number of stamps, they could be exchanged for premiums, such as toys, personal items, housewares, furniture and appliances.



Missing Leavens Sought

The history group has noticed that they are missing some Leavens from their collection. Specifically, they are missing many leavens from 2003–2005. If anyone has some saved that they could make a copy of for church records, please contact Jenni or Myrtle Brittain.

Summer Giving

Please stay up-to-date with your giving this summer. We are behind where we'd hoped to be. The elevator put a crimp in our style, along with the resignation of our treasurer extraordinaire.

Cleo's MEWsings

Hope you all had a wonderful 4th of July with lots of food, family, friends and fireworks! And I am sure a few of my furry friends are happy it is over. Right, Oakley?!

So what have you all been up to? I know lots of people have been to the lake, up north and at the cabin! Only unusual vacation I heard about was Anne and Matt Deetz on a trip to Iceland! They drove all around the island. Hear the waterfalls were wonderful, the roads not so good!

Did you hear that Gloria and Andy Simon have an adorable baby girl? Rose Edell was born on June 27th. A little early, she was 6#, 6oz and cute as can be! Can't wait to see her!

The knitters have been enjoying little Gary, born in May to Katie and Edwig. Katie has been learning to knit (and is doing great!) and the knitters have been taking turns holding the baby. So far this year, 23 prayer shawls have been sent out; the latest to Alan Searle who has cancer, to Carol McKernan's nephew Ken, who has a serious infection and to Lucy, a friend of Anne Dietz who also has cancer. Please keep them in your prayers.

Had some news about former St. Paulites, some sad and some happy. First the sad. Deacon Steve Judd conducted a graveside service for Monica Hasher Garza, daughter of Art and Helen Hasher who were members years ago before moving to Phoenix. Monica's daughter, Mary lived with her grandparents and many of you may remember her. Steve reported that the service was

attended by friends and relatives from Texas, Arizona and Oklahoma. The service was on Saturday, June 29th.

And the good news was that Kim Staveau's son Luke was married on Sunday, June 23rd in Minneapolis. Kim moved to Florida years ago where she was a prison chaplain until she retired to help care for her husband. Deb Carlson was at the wedding and reported that it was beautiful and the bride, Mia, looked like a princess! Our congratulations and best wishes to Luke and Mia!

And keep the Warehime family in your prayers. A service to say goodbye to Roger's mother, Martha, was held at St. Paul's on Saturday, June 15th. The service was especially lovely with special music provided by grandchildren, Jacob and Jackie and by Matt Boisen.

In other sad news, Gerri Schwenker is moving! Not far, just to Rochester to be closer to her children but we will miss her!

Also moving are Mark and Rebecca Krug. They have already moved to Northfield but will continue to come to St. Paul's.

Hear the choir had a great party at Scott and Kathy Brittain's to mark the beginning of their summer break! And Kris Warehime did a super job leading a book study group on four Wednesday nights. Heard some grumbling about the book but the discussion was great! And so was the food!

Keep Nan Gjerdahl in your prayers as she recovers from a hospital stay for pneumonia. She is home and doing well. Say an extra prayer for Bernie Reisenauer, for Maggie Dixon and any others who are in your heart and on your mind.

Til next month, share your news and have fun, get your things down to church for the rummage sale, and enjoy the warm and wet weather!

Love, Cleo



Rummage Sale

July 26th 9am to 3pm

July 27th 8am to noon

You may start bringing your items to church after July 7. Please store them neatly in the back of the dining room and mark them clearly for the rummage sale.

We are in need of household items, dishes, furniture, collectibles, toys, and books. ***Please no clothing, electronics or text books.***

Workers are also needed for set up and clean up as well as on the day of the sale. See sign-up sheets in Upper Tanner.

WoSP Treasurer Update

I am happy to report the recap of our 2019 Lenten Lunch series.

267 paid lunches were served over the 6 week period resulting in a total of \$1,602.00, plus we received \$81.00 in misc. donations. After expenses the net profit/proceeds came to \$888.54.

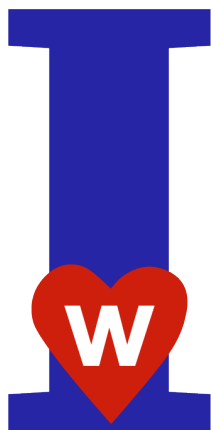
It was voted on and approved by the Women of St. Paul's that the proceeds be distributed to two local agencies.

Rachel's Light and the Owatonna Free Clinic each received a check for \$444.27. It is our wish that by these donations, these agencies will be able to continue providing services to the residents of Steele County.

Our Lenten Lunch Series not only feeds the soul, but the body as well. Blessings and thanks to all who helped with this ministry of St. Paul's Church.

In other news The Women of St. Paul's Church were the recipients of a generous donation of \$100 from the family of Martha Warehime. Martha was Roger's mother who recently passed on and her funeral service was held at St. Paul's. Thank you and blessings to the Warehime family.

Jackie Ostlund, Treasurer

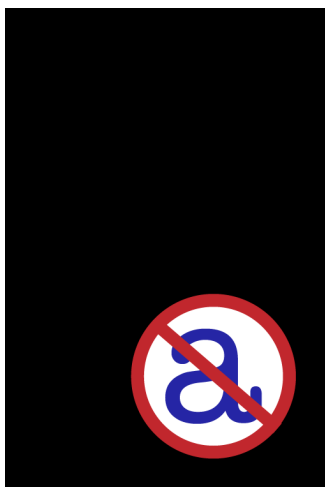


1.



2.

The Four Agreements



3.



4.

Wednesday nights this past June

a group of us discussed The Four Agreements. We ended the book study by making icons we could use as visual reminders going forward. We share them with you here hoping that they might also inspire you

The Four Agreements

1. Be impeccable with your word.
2. Don't take things personally.
3. Don't make assumptions
4. Always do your best.

Meeting of the Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

June 23, 2019

11:15 am

Call to Order: Kris Warehime, President

1. Treasurer Report from Lenten Lunches – Net profit/proceeds \$888.54. Our proceeds will be divided between Rachel's Light and Steele County Free Clinic.
2. Our coffee committees are getting smaller because of a few of members who are planning to move or have departed due to personal reasons. Discussion included:
 - We sign up for coffee hour on a weekly basis.
 - Try to decrease the number of treats served and go back to just cookies. We then would not need to use plates but just napkins.
 - Coffee hour can be expensive for some of our women participating.
 - Can we ask the men to help with coffee hour?
 - Suggested we might have a "cookie day", bake a variety of cookies and freeze them at church. We then could use those for our coffee hour.
 - We tabled any action until our next meeting.
3. D. Spitzack reported that our Rummage Sale will be Friday July 26th. – 9 am – 3 pm and Saturday July 27th, 8am- noon. We will start collecting items after July 4th. We will not be accepting Christmas items, clothing, electronics or exercise equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Peterson

Baby Shower Thank You!

Katie writes: "I wanted to express my thanks for the wonderful baby shower. Thank you to Diane and her helpers for hosting, I had SO much fun! I was absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of gifts given and they will be a huge help to us for some time to come. But more than the gifts, thank you for the show of love and support. It warmed my heart to gather and celebrate.

-Katie Vyncke"

Lay Schedule

Date	Lay Reader	Lector	Chalice	Ushers	Counter
July 14	Scott	Francy	Janet	Julie and Gayle	Francy
July 21	Kristin	Matt	Francy	Gary and Mike W	Julie
July 28	Mark	Gary	Diane	Maria and Rebecca	Mark
Aug 4	Jackie	Mary	Janet	Gretchen and Marty	Kristin
Aug 11	Julianna	Leanne	Francy	Julie and Gayle	Gretchen
Aug 18	Kristin	Francy	Diane	Gary and Mike W	Francy
Aug 25	Mark	Matt	Janet	Maria and Rebecca	Julie
Sept 1	Jackie	Gary	Francy	Gretchen and Marty	Mark
Sept 8	Julianna	Mary	Diane	Gretchen and Marty	Kristin



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

July

Judie Buerman
Terri Hottmann
Gretchen Zinsli
Kari Gigstead
Kelly Karstens
Robin McKey
Francy Hall
Angie Parsons

August

Myrtle Brittain
Lisa Boutelle
Judy Erck
Sharol Tamburro
Bobbi Otteson
Sue Mahlman
Joanne Peterson
Jody Boisen

July

Janet Dixon
Joanne Peterson
Rev. Steve Judd

August

Myrtle Brittain
Lisa Boutelle