



April
2022
Volume
LXXXII

THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
309 S. Jackson St.
Jackson, Michigan 49201
Phone 517-787-3370
Email: church@stpauljxmi.org
Website: www.stpauljxmi.org



Inside this issue

Rector's Corner	2
Curate's Report.....	3
ECW.....	4,5
End Gun Violence.....	6
Metaphors For Ministry...7	
Organist's corner.....	8
St. Paul's Talent show....	9
Announcements.....	10-13
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	13
April Calendar.....	14



Rector's Corner

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." -Isaiah 41:10

Friends,

The one phrase most often repeated in the Bible is some version of "fear not". In a way this is comforting to me. Our lives are filled with many instances of suffering, small and big. What I've come to learn about my own suffering is that much of it is based in fear and not the actual pain of what is happening in the moment. Fear of the future, fear of our own inadequacies, fear of others and fear of events in places far removed from us...these fears bring us more suffering than the suffering we directly experience.

For instance, on April 19th, Easter Tuesday, I'll have my left knee replaced. It was a year ago I had my right knee replaced and through this year of healing and physical therapy I've needed to practice reminding myself that the pain I'm experiencing is temporary. My greatest fear is that the pain will never go away. Many people deal with pain on a daily basis and have to come to grips with that fact and find ways to live life through it. I'm in awe of folks who can do this without turning to abusing substances or people to get them through the day. The fear of continued, unabated suffering is usually worse than the pain and suffering itself. The human body and spirit is remarkably resilient when we have the ability to be mindful about our suffering.

So many things have been on our minds lately from our personal suffering to the continued suffering due to Covid, mental health issues, gun violence and the war in Ukraine and violence around the world. This month we walk through Holy Week and are reminded of the suffering of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for our sake. We did not cause Jesus' suffering but we benefit from His death and resurrection in the promise of eternal life and love at Easter.

Our suffering doesn't make us more holy by far and staying in abusive situations is not what God hopes for our lives. Suffering does come to each of us and resurrection is available for us as God will make us new each day. God is in the resurrection business and nothing is resurrected that hasn't gone through death first. If we learn to trust God in the suffering we experience and learn from it then we will experience the resurrection of our lives and be transformed by our suffering into more Christ-like people.

As we walk these final steps through Lent and Holy Week...whether in our liturgy or in our own lives, fear not. God is with us and will transform us through this suffering and we will experience the resurrection of our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Faithfully,
Sarah

Curate's Report



"Be still, and know that I am God!" -Psalm 46:10

Siblings in Christ,

Lent is a time to slow down and focus on thinking about our life in new and deeper ways than we ever have. It gives us opportunity to pare down some of our extras in life and focus on what seems most important. And the idea is to open a space where we can deepen our faith.

There are lots of ways to create this space and there is still time! Our personal Lenten practices are one of them. Whether we are adding something into our lives or taking something out, a greater space for faith is made.

Other ways to deepen our understanding and impact of our faith in new and innovative ways is through the programs at St. Paul's. The intergenerational Lent study on Hamilton has us exploring old Lent themes in very new ways. Rap music and lyrics from the show is informing our thoughts. Not only are we looking at traditional Lent themes in new ways, but we are also learning about the history of our country and thinking about it in new ways through the lens of Christianity.

Partnered with faith comes fun and acts of service. Our child and youth partnership with friends from the First Presbyterian and First United Methodist Churches continues with a movie night in April. The First United Methodist Church will host the event in their parish hall. We will also be holding our annual Easter Egg Hunt Easter morning after the 10:30AM service. The children and youth also made the annual Alleluia banner, and the youth hid it in a top-secret location in the church, only to be uncovered upon the arrival of Easter. Service wise we are planning an Easter season service project for our local seniors and our parish shut ins, with the help of ECW.

As part of your Lenten reflection, I invite you to consider if you are called to help with the children and youth of our parish. We are currently looking for some additional help to support the learning, fun and fellowship for this group. If you are interested in helping, please contact me. We have a group of exceptional children and youth and working with them is very rewarding.

In faith,
Melissa



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

Here we are in April. Crocus have already peeked above the ground and brought a little bit of color to the drab winter landscape of the garden. Daffodils will be popping soon and before you know it, we will be complaining about the heat. Nothing much happens in April except April Fool's Day and peanut butter and jelly day. However, ECW has a lot of news to share so buckle up and let's get started.

We went to St. Demetrius church in March to see the icons that this church is becoming famous for. Wow! What a visit that was. They have beautiful icons and Fr. Dusan Koprivica gave a talk on each one with the background and history of each. It was very informative and educational. If you ever get a chance to take this tour do so. It is well worth the visit and donation. We finished off the morning with coffee and baklava in their church gathering space. It was a wonderful visit. Everyone who attended enjoyed it immensely!

Our next meeting will be at the SOAR house on Brown Street on April 2. We will meet there at 10:30 am for refreshments and social time followed by a tour of the home. Also, the SOAR annual "Healing Handbags" fundraising event will be held at Cascade Manor House on **May 6 at 5:30 pm**. Cost is \$35 per person. Please go to www.soarcafeandfarms.com for details on how to get tickets and sign up.

Please remember that the May meeting will be our painting one. It will be **May 14** and promises to be a lot of fun!! We have permission to have wine so if you feel inclined to have an art and wine morning you are welcome to bring a bottle of your favorite to sip on while you slap some paint on the canvas. If you find the cost prohibitive, please remember that you can get a scholarship by contacting Pastor Sarah who will be happy to help. Also keep in mind that you get to bring your priceless work of art home to enhance your décor.

We have only five bags of nuts (walnuts only @\$10/each) left from our annual fundraising sale! Please help push us over the \$1,000 profit line by finishing them off. Easter is just around the corner and those baskets won't fill themselves. So, let us help each other out here. Our current profit stands at \$975, and we are tantalizingly close to that magic figure of \$1,000. ECW has recently purchased new corporals and small credence cloths for use at the altar. Just some of the good that supporting this fund raiser does.

The young people have joined with other area churches to send springtime cards to the elderly in nursing homes. They are looking for help in making these cards thus putting a more personal stamp on the project. They need a lot of help with creating and decorating these cards. They need to do 20 cards for the nursing home and an additional 6-8 for some of our own elderly parishioners. They will be doing this special service project on April 24 in place of their regular

ECW continued...

Christian education curriculum. If you have even a crumb of creativity or a steady hand, please step forward and help in this endeavor. I will be there. Will you please join me? When you're feeling warehoused and forgotten it means so much to be remembered even in this small way. Please come out and help brighten the day of a nursing home resident.

In ECW business – we will be presenting the slate of candidates for the ECW Board at our May meeting. We will vote on them in June. The current board is willing to continue in their respective roles. However, we are in dire need of a secretary. The duties of the secretary are to take notes at the meetings and type up the minutes of those meetings. They are **NOT** required to write the Epistle article! Ever!!! If the vice-president is unavailable to write the article the President will take over. **NOT** the secretary. Please seriously consider stepping into this role and reduce the burden currently shouldered by the already busy board members.

In conclusion, we are busy planning for next year's speakers. If you have a speaker or organization in mind, please let us know and we will endeavor to get them on the schedule.

Enjoy the upcoming warmer weather and blessings as we prepare for Holy week and the passion of our savior, Jesus Christ. Easter follows and He Is Risen.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Rowley, Vice-President, ECW.



I would like to thank all my friends at St. Paul's who participated in my birthday card extravaganza for my 90th birthday. It was wonderful to get so many cards, notes and photos. You made my birthday so very special and one of the best ever.

After a lovely dinner at Knight's, I was given a beautiful box to take home. It was such a surprise to see all those cards! I've read them all at least three times.

I've always felt that St. Paul's was my second family, and now I know that is true. I hope to see you all again soon.

*Love,
Betty Thomas*

Friends,

In response to the alarming rise of gun violence in our streets and schools, Bishop Bonnie and other religious and civic leaders are meeting to plan a ballot initiative to enact sensible gun laws that the majority of Michiganders can agree on. A Lobby and Public Witness Day will take place during Holy Week. If you would like to know more and/or participate in this Day please see the information below and go to the Diocesan website to link with others in action.

<https://www.edomi.org/lobbyday/>

Faithfully, Pastor Sarah

Increased Public Witness & Leadership
Join a Lobby Day Support Team
Michigan State Capitol, St. Paul's Lansing, or At Home
Wednesday, April 13
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



If you would like to show your support for those who are lobbying on April 13 for End Gun Violence Michigan in Lansing, we have ways you can help.

We need people who are willing to be on a **Prayerful Presence Team** that will gather outside the Capitol building, as well as at St. Paul's, Lansing.

Is your strength hospitality? Great! Be part of the **Hospitality Team**. We need you to help keep the grounds of St. Paul's tidy, or coordinate and offer refreshments to the attendees.

Are you comfortable being vocal about ending gun violence? Perfect, sign up to be on the **Prayerful Protesters Team**! We need you to hand out flyers, carry signs, and march for the cause.

Are you good at social media, and do you have a lot of followers/friends? We need you on our **Social Media Team**. Photograph and post, promote and share to your Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages to help bring awareness to Lobby Day.

Prayer works! Can't make it to Lansing? We still need your support. Sign up to be an **At Home Prayerful Presence**. Add a prayer for lobby day into your congregation's prayers, ask your bible study group or church group for prayers for lobby day, or pray at home for lobby day.

Metaphors for Ministry

-by Curate Melissa

For the calendar year of 2022 I'll have an article series running in the Epistle about *Metaphors for Ministry*. Check back each month for a new metaphor. I'd love to hear your own spin on one of these metaphors.

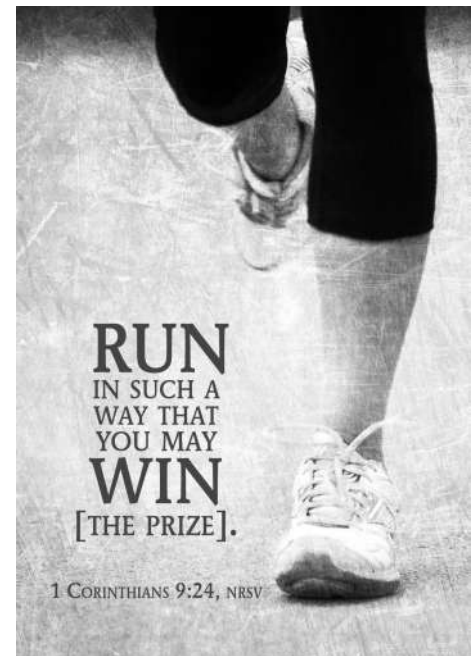
Do you not know that in a race all runners compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. -1 Corinthians 9:24.

The metaphor I'm highlighting this month is "a race." This scripture has us thinking how our Christian lives compare to a race.

It's not really about one winner and everyone else loses. What Paul is trying to emphasize to the Corinthians is for each of us to train, in other words, to live our lives, as if we plan to win the race. Training for a race clearly necessitates dedication, time, sacrifices, and pushing ourselves beyond what we thought was possible. Ultimately training is something we do to improve ourselves in order to run our best race.

As Christians it is our responsibility to pursue Christ. Part of our work is getting to know Christ better. We do this by prayer, fasting, repenting, listening, and learning. All these things are like the dedication it takes to run a race. And as we pursue Christ, we improve our skills.

As an avid runner and former marathon runner, I found this metaphor particularly intriguing. And I believe Paul used this metaphor because Corinth was a very competitive society, as is our own. What's neat about Scripture is there are so many metaphors, and some will resonate more with each of us than others. If there is one you like, I'd encourage you to dig deep and spend some time thinking about it and how it applies to your life in this place and time.



Organist's Corner



How I Choose Music for a Sunday Morning

I often feel almost like a kid on Christmas Day when I get a new set of hymns from Pastor Sarah or Pastor Melissa! As soon as I receive the information, I put the hymn numbers in my notebook and look up the tune name of each hymn. To organists, there is nothing more important than the tune name.

In different hymnals, often times more than one text can be matched with different tunes. If someone tells me that we are singing “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” for example, that information is not always the most useful to me because those lyrics have been set to at least three different hymn tunes. The tune names are traditionally found in the small print at the bottom of the hymn. As hymnals have progressed over the years, it has become more common for tune names to be listed in all capital letters or italics or both. The back of a hymnal has a “Tune Index,” which is the one I have bookmarked in all my hymnals and pretty much the only index that I ever use.

When I've got all of the tune names, I go right to my spreadsheet that lists the 4,424 “chorale preludes” that I currently own. A chorale prelude is simply a piece for organ that is composed on a hymn tune. These pieces can be used for preludes, postludes, offertories, meditations, or even as hymn introductions. One of my goals for the service is to have music that is based on the hymns for the day. In doing so, I hope that the service is more cohesive and that by hearing hymn-based music, the congregation members will recognize the tunes that we have sung or will be singing that Sunday. A less familiar tune gets a chance to become more familiar, while a well-loved tune gets to be enjoyed in a different format. I hope that hearing how composers have interpreted the music will provide a further way to contemplate the meaning of the text. Composers will use different compositional devices to communicate the feel of the text or the season of the hymn, such as quieter flute or string stops for Lenten pieces and loud trumpet and principal stops for Easter. For some hymn tunes, I may have 20 pieces based on that tune by composers from many different musical eras. For other tunes, I may only have one or two chorale preludes, or occasionally none. (Although we have many, many hymns in common, there are a few Episcopalian hymns that were not a part of my Lutheran tradition.) My spreadsheet tells me where to find all of the chorale preludes on a certain tune, since with a large repertoire, it is impossible to remember every piece in every book. And I always seem to have a list of hymn tunes that I want to find new music for.

Some Sundays, when there is a very familiar hymn, I may play all three of my organ pieces based on the same hymn as I did on the third Sunday in Lent with “What Wondrous Love is This.” I hope that it is interesting to hear the different arrangements that composers create. I also love that we have created a tradition at St. Paul's of being seated and enjoying the Postlude. I appreciate the courtesy of listening to the music that I work so hard to prepare.

Julie J. Baglien,
St. Paul's Organist





Our St. Paul's crew is a talented bunch!
Coffee Hour Talent Show
March 20, 2022



Return To Wine At Communion

The Tri-Diocesan group tasked with prayerfully discussing ways in which we may return to sharing the wine as well as the bread at Eucharist have returned their report to our Michigan Bishops. If you want to read the 21-page document please email Pastors Sarah or Melissa for a copy. What it says:

-We may return to using the common cup as of Maundy Thursday. LEM's must use hand sanitizer and carefully wipe the rim of the cup when one person finishes.

-We may consume by intinction with one major change. The LEM will take the host from the communicant, dip it in the wine and place it on the hand of the communicant to consume.

-We also remind everyone that communion in one kind (just the bread) is sufficient for the sacrament. You will not miss out on any spiritual blessing for not receiving the wine if you don't feel safe doing so. The practice of Spiritual Communion, understood as the spiritual grace of the Eucharist for those worshipping with us online, is valid and may continue to be practiced for those who cannot be present due to illness or travel.

We will be holding a practice for Ushers, LEM's and Acolytes after Coffee Hour on Palm Sunday in preparation for Eastertide. More practices will follow as we live into this phase of worship together. I continue to marvel at the patience and fortitude of all our people and especially our Worship Ministers in any capacity. Your flexibility these past two years is astonishing!

Faithfully,
Sarah+



April BIBLE READING PLAN

Scripture about
Jesus' Resurrection.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Luke 3:22 2. Luke 4:18 3. Titus 3:5-6 4. John 6:47 5. John 11:25 6. Luke 9:23 7. John 14:6 8. Matthew 16:21 9. Mark 11:8-9 10. Luke 24:46 11. John 14:1-3 12. Luke 22:42 13. Mark 14:22-24 14. Luke 23:44-46 15. Mark 15:46 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Luke 24:1-7 17. Romans 4:25 18. Job 19:25 19. Isaiah 53:5 20. 2 Corinthians 5:15 21. 1 Peter 2:24 22. Colossians 3:1 23. 1 Corinthians 6:14 24. Philippians 3:10 25. Romans 6:9 26. 1 Corinthians 15:22 27. Hebrews 9:28 28. Galatians 2:20 29. 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 30. 1 John 2:25 |
|--|--|



We will be having an Easter Day Egg Hunt for our children following the 10:30 service and our youth group will help hide the eggs that day for the hunt. Please consider donating items to stuff eggs with small toys and candy.

Donations should be dropped off on or before **April 10**.

Thank you - our youngest members will appreciate this special way to celebrate Easter!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Special Easter Coffee Hour

Calling all bakers! Bring your favorite sweet item (or gluten free dessert) to share for a special Coffee Hour planned for Easter Sunday. The extended coffee hour will happen after the 10:30 service and Easter Egg Hunt.



Please join us as we spend time together in fellowship and praise.

Sunday, April 17, 2022

309 S. Jackson St.

Jackson, Michigan



HE IS RISEN!

*For more information, please call the Church Office at
(517) 787-3370*



Join us for in-person services at 8 am or 10:30 am.

Masks are recommended, but not required.

Or Join us online Sundays at 10:30 am:

For the Facebook Livestream of our service follow the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi>

Sunday Worship Bulletins are on our website at <https://stpauljxmi.org/>

You can also view our services later on Facebook.

(You do NOT have to have a Facebook account to view our videos.)

Bible Study



Bible Study is in person on Wednesdays at **10:30 am** in the Small Dining Room.

(It will continue to be on Zoom also for those who would like to still attend online.)

Follow this link to Zoom in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005898502>

No Password required



**Wednesday @ 12:15 pm -
Holy Eucharist in the chapel**



Join Pastor Sarah each **Wednesday at 8pm** on our St. Paul's

Facebook page for the service of Compline from the Book of Common Prayer with the commemoration of saints that day.

All are welcome to join us for a 'pub theology' evening. We meet at Ironbark Brewery **every other Wednesday at 6pm**. Questions? Email Tom at holsingerfriesen@gmail.com.

Adult Forum

9:15 am-10:15 am on Sundays in the small dining room.

Email Eric Magnusson (emagnusson75@gmail.com) for more info or questions.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 10th	Palm Sunday - 8:00 am & 10:30 am (10:30 service begins in Holy Spirit Hall)
April 13th	Wednesday 10:30 am Bible Study, 12:15 Eucharist & 8 pm Evening Compline
April 14th	Maundy Thursday - 6:00 pm All-night vigil after service until 8am Good Friday
April 15th	Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12 pm Liturgy 6:00 pm
April 17th	Easter Sunday - 8:00 am & 10:30 am



April BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Blake	April 3
Jon Gould	April 6
Janet Wesch	April 7
Xavier Radabaugh	April 12
Christy Randall	April 15
Steve Baldwin	April 20
Diana Sinclair	April 20
Cassie Meyer	April 23
Elizabeth Middlebrook	April 25
Ron Rowley	April 30
Katie Mulhearn	April 30
Alarik Brethauer	April 30



We will be offering an all-night watch after the Maundy Thursday service until 9:00 am Good Friday. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the glass narthex.

PLEASE RSVP

Kids Movie Night



@ First United Methodist Church



4.8.22

With Jackson First Presbyterian &
St. Paul's Episcopal Churches

Pizza Dinner &
Popcorn Provided



APRIL 2022¹⁴

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						10 am ECW @ Soar House
3 Birthdays & Anniversaries	4	5	6	7	8	9
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline		6 pm Kids Movie Night @ First UMC	
10 Palm Sunday	11	12	13	14	15	16
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		4:30 pm Clergy Mtg 6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline	Maundy Thursday 6 pm Service All night vigil	Good Friday 12 pm - Stations of the Cross 6 pm - Liturgy	Holy Saturday
17 Easter Sunday	18	19	20	21	22	23
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Easter Coffee Hour/ Egg Hunt		6:30 pm Vestry Mtg 6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline	4:30 pm Staff Meeting		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist / Coffee Hour		4:30 pm Clergy Mtg 6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline			