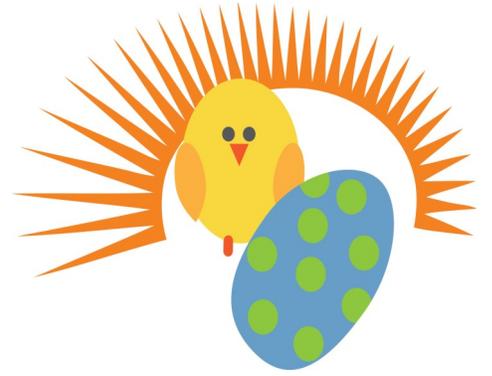


May 2019
Volume L

THE EPISTLE

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Rectors Corner

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." 1 Peter 5:10

Friends,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen indeed, Alleluia! By God's good grace we each got up this morning in a safe house, warm bed and had food in the pantry to eat. Right there is plenty for us to be thankful for today! Each of us can add a myriad of things to this gratitude list and we should each day. The joy we seek in our lives is a product of gratitude, not the other way around. I say at the end of our worship, "Life is short..." and that's not meant as a downer but as a frame to help us focus our days to the most important things. The length of our days is not guaranteed and the life of our days is mostly up to us. Each of us bears our own burdens, some we share and others remain hidden. None of these burdens can steal true joy if we remain grateful. I've spoken with several our parish family who are enduring suffering and trial and the secret to their endurance is gratitude. Not one of them finished our conversations without a litany of joys in their lives and thanksgivings they name. Their gratitude along side of their suffering is what makes up their testimony. Now, Episcopalians don't use the word testimony in church that often because it's more typically found in other traditions. However, each of us has a testimony. A testimony is a story we tell. It's our story. In court we tell it to a judge, but as Christians we tell it to God. Now usually our testimony is shared with others like friends and family. But at its heart, a testimony is our love letter to God for bringing us through rough times, forgiving us our sins, helping us forgive others and freeing us from the physical, mental and emotional cages we live in. It makes me wonder...what is your testimony?

During the great 50 days of Easter we hear the testimony of several of the disciples and learn how they became apostles sent out to spread the Good News throughout the land. The Good News they told was of Jesus' life, death and resurrection but it was told through their own testimony of their experience with Him. What is your experience with Jesus? None of us now has seen Him face to face but surely we've experienced the love of Christ in the life of someone dear to us or in the worship we give together. During Eastertide I ask you to ponder your own testimony and if you can't articulate one, ask God to help. Spend time in God's loving presence and read the testimonies we encounter in our Sunday lectionary. What is familiar about them? What feeling do these stories leave you with? Can you find yourself feeling the same joy as they did? My prayer is that the exercise of praying about your testimony will help you write it. God has a story of love of which we are all a part. What will your chapter sound like?

Faithfully,

Sarah+

From Our Jr. Warden

3

"Spring has sprung,
the grass is riz
I wonder where the birdies is?
The birdie is upon the wing
No, that's absurd
The wing is on the little bird"
-anonymous



My favorite springtime poem. (*I first heard it from Jack Horkheimer the Star Hustler guy*)

Actually the birds are everywhere.

Our April vestry meeting was a lively and productive one. A lot of ideas were discussed with contributions from everyone.

As a recent presidential campaign slogan stated: "It's a vision thing" which maybe could be our slogan also. Along with our Rector Sarah, we have a unique opportunity as a vestry to see where this particular part of the Body of Christ that meets at St. Paul's is being led.

See you in church!

-Clark Hutchens, Jr. Warden



The Bishop Search Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan has announced the final slate of candidates for the 11th bishop of our Diocese. Everyone is welcome to attend the Walkabouts, which are opportunities to meet the candidates, hear their responses to questions, and help them learn more about our Diocese. Our Delegates from St. Paul's to the electing convention will attend the diocesan walkabout on **Saturday, May 18, 4:00 PM** at All Saints', East Lansing and you are welcome to join us. Learn more information at: www.edomi.org/candidates/

Or, you can view videos of the Walkabouts which will be posted after the sessions at: www.edomi.org/walkabouts

Building & Grounds

Late winter early spring update:

We faired well through winter with Daugherty's snow removal services. Dwayne's team was very attentive to our needs. Ice melt usage was down from the winter before.

Unsigthly plumbing fitting next to dishwasher in kitchen has been replaced, it was seeping and needed to be replaced.

New cleaning service has been doing a great job looking after our facility, window washing, getting into nooks and crannies. Have heard good things.

We have had a few issues with pests recently, not having anyone under contract since Cardinal Solutions which was many years ago. We now have contracted with Orkin to provide monthly service maintaining our expectations of a clean environment and keeping us in compliance with kitchens codes. Being we are having more events and usage of our facilities the refuse service has been upgraded to a dumpster again. The two 90-gallon containers have worked well. However, at times we have had refuse piled on the ground next to the 90-gallon containers, so the change was made.

On Easter Sunday a ceiling leak was discovered in the Girls bathroom (2nd floor) it was determined to be a roof leak. Last Friday it was inspected for repairs and will be estimated as to the cost to repair.

The floors of Holy Spirit Hall and hallways around it will be stripped and resealed after the May 11th SOAR event. It will require one ENTIRE WEEK to accomplish this. Any events planned during the month of May need to be examined to accommodate this much needed maintenance. During the scheduled week of the floors being done it will be LIMITED USE, THE FLOORS CANNOT BE WALKED UPON. Must schedule this in the next week for some time before or after Memorial Holiday weekend.

A major water leak was identified by Dennis Marsh on the Monday prior to Holy Week. One of the hydrants supplying water to the garden blew off the wall outside Reverend Sarah's office into the Memorial Garden. Metal fatigue was to blame. Aladdin, our contracted maintenance provider, terminated the faulty fixture. We have one still available to supply water to the garden area. Troy's Lawn Service has begun the lawn mowing season this past week. Susan Smar our gardener has been in attendance and will continue her efforts in keeping our facility weed free this year. Thank You Susan!!

Door locks changed: The doors to Holy Sprit Hall, the doors inside the hall, and the door inside the small dining room for the electrical panel access have been changed to separate keys. Why? Because as we have experienced with increased usage of our facility by groups outside our parish, we have had to request the return of the "master" key they have had. This has been a request of the Safety /Security Team to limit the access of our facility to non-parishioners to just the rooms they need to use.

Emergency & Safety Committee

Emergency and Safety
Team:

We need volunteers from
the 26 people that attended
the event provided by
Michigan State Police
Trooper Fletcher, and the

parish at large. What is specifically needed is a group of parishioners willing to be eyes and ears. This means adhering to a schedule of when on duty, SORT OF LIKE AN USHER DUTY, use a radio and reporting as to what you see. We have a closed-circuit camera system other churches would envy. We need parish folks to monitor the system. Contact Kyle King 517-787-1274 or cell 517-745-7569.

Maintenance & improvements EMERGENCY EXIT : Steve Baldwin and Kyle installed a new emergency exit handle on the door leading out to the MEMORIAL GARDEN next to the Baptismal font. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY Parishioners can exit the building through this door instead of the back of the church.

GLASS NARTHEX DOORS LEADING ONTO South Jackson St. now have a door lock as does the back door to the parking lot. See Kyle for explanation.

Sunday services: Outside doors will be locked shortly after services begin, to make it smooth for late arrivals press the intercom button to announce your arrival and security team will buzz you in.

AED: Yes, we have an Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) located between the bathrooms across from the Nursery. A new more visible sign will be placed for ease of seeing in an emergency. We welcome all persons to inquire if interested to learn about the use of the AED. Please contact Michelle Gibson for details.

-Kyle King, Building & Grounds

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you
has received.*

- 1 Peter 4:10



Mission & Outreach

"Handbags of Love" Luncheon and Handbag Auction

Benefitting SOAR Café and Farms

Saturday, May 11, 2019, 11 am-1 pm

Sponsored by Mission and Outreach and ECW, is fast approaching!

The "Handbags of Love" SOAR fundraiser is coming up on Saturday, May 11th at 11 am. Your continued support is needed with purse donations, and gift baskets, table sponsors and monetary donations.

We also need the men of St. Paul's to donate their time as ticket sellers and waitstaff. Please say **YES** and sign up on the bulletin board in the glass narthex! Black slacks, white shirt and bowtie if you have one!

Tickets are still available for \$20, or arrangements can be made if you are unable to pay for one. Please check the sign-up sheets and info in the glass narthex, or contact Sandra Kilian, Barb Markowski or Brandi Bruckler for more details.

St. Paul's has always risen to help worthy causes and this event is no exception. We are so grateful for everyone who has already donated and/or worked to make this day an enormous success. Thank you so very much! And **THANKS BE TO GOD!!!**



We are still gathering quality jewelry that may be sitting in your drawers hanging on jewelry holders, rings, bracelets, watches and necklaces.

We will have 2 tables at the event, a \$5 and \$10 table, all donated by anyone that wishes to clean out their stuff. I have 4 of my friends who are donating unused and things that are not being worn. If you have it in your heart and your time to go through and do spring cleaning on your own jewelry all donations will be greatly appreciated!!

In God's love for the benefit of SOAR. Contact Deanna for more info or to drop off a donation.

-Deanna Leicht
517-937-2657



Easter Brunch Thank you!

I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2019 Easter Brunch such a wonderful success. A special thank you is extended to Barney Rudolph, Marianne Fowler, Deb Batchelder, and Jo Alipit for helping to set up Holy Spirit hall on Saturday. Thank you to all the wonderful cooks who brought a dish to share. We were blessed with approximately 86 attendees at the Easter Brunch. Also thank you to everyone who helped to cleanup on Sunday after the event, especially Deanna and John Leicht, Deb Batchelder, Romelle Frey, Marianne Fowler, Jo Alipit and others who I may have missed and apologize for leaving out. We all enjoyed great food, fun and fellowship. Thank You!



Acts 16:34

And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Rudolph



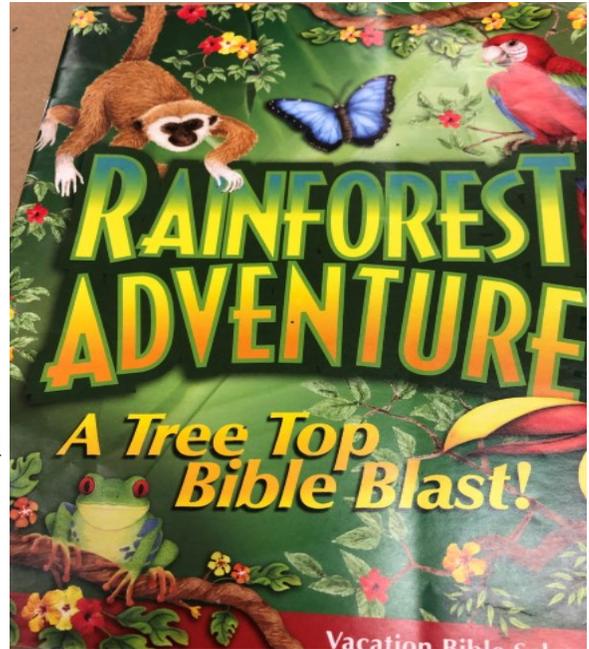


**CHURCH
SCHOOL**

Church School News

BIG NEWS!

Vacation Bible School will be held here at St. Paul's this summer and we will, once again, join with First Pres. and Immanuel Lutheran to put this event together. The Theme is "RAIN FOREST ADVENTURE". The dates are June 18th, 19th, and 20th (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). We will be serving a meal to the children each evening before we begin our adventures. More details to come but please make note that we will need crew leaders, meal preparation and serving, fun people to help us with putting on the opening skits, etc. As the date draws closer we will know better how many hands we need from our parish.



Teachers and students will be hosting both Mother's Day and Father's day coffee hours, so please let us know if you'd like to help the children honor their parents by supplying coffee hour goodies.

We will be recognizing our students on May 19th, the end of our regular school classes, with a gift and certificate of completion. We hope to have the whole wonderful crew in class and in Church that Sunday.

NO CLASSES ON SUNDAY MAY 26TH, Memorial day weekend.

As we move into the summer months..... we are going to develop a calendar to give YOU ALL AN OPPORTUNITY to sign up to teach ONE class. There must be at least two people to teach, which gives husband and wife teams an easy way to fill in. The curriculum is so wonderful and engaging! You can't do this wrong. Kim and I love the children and being a part of their spiritual growth, love the curriculum, and love teaching, but we could really use a bit of time off. Please consider this ministry! ONE SUNDAY!

-Zoe Baldwin and Kim Perlos

Pastor Sarah's Picks!



Avengers: Endgame

I was never much of a comic book reader when I was growing up. The occasional Spider Man or Richie Rich was about it. I am astonished at how big and how excellent the last 10 years' worth of Marvel Movies have been. Characters have remained (mostly) the same throughout the series but the changes in directors have made the difference in each story. This "finale" to the last series of movies leaves many questions answered and many unanswered as well. A couple of story-lines end and many others are just getting good. As a devotee of the Thor films I was delighted by where the director took his character and with the new addition of Captain Marvel into this universe I am excited for the future. The seemingly universal appeal of these movies has been in their generosity and diversity in story, background, character and genre. Unlike the Star Wars or Star Trek franchises, the Marvels are taken seriously by devoted fans but with a generosity that doesn't get too bogged down in minutia from the comic books or first generation of movies. I think this is why they are so successful. They are splashy, campy and over the top with action and humor. In my opinion, these movies are why movies were made in the first place. They take you out of yourself into a land where life isn't easy but each person is uniquely talented and they are stronger as a team. That's good entertainment!

Pastor Sarah was delighted to witness and bless the legal adoption of Edward and Joshua to Ruth Genyk and her partner Sandy Walker. Easter Monday saw great joy at the Jackson County Courthouse and the judge was extremely kind and generous in his love for this beautiful family.

Congratulations and blessings on them as they are a blessing to St. Paul's!



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

The year is marching right along, and the May Epistle is here already. It won't be long until summer is upon us and the year will be half over. But before we get that far we have some ECW updates for you all.

Our last full meeting of ECW was held on April 13, 2019. Our speaker was Connie Fridd, who spoke on the opioid crisis. While this is a national crisis, Connie was able to put a more local face to it. Most of us tend to think the opioid crisis is one that is confined to the bigger cities in the United States like Chicago, New York or Los Angeles. Connie is out to change that misconception. She wants to show that people addicted to opioids are not your stereotypical junkie who come from bad backgrounds or childhoods and end up using drugs to dull their emotional pain. Connie shared her story with us and it was a very difficult but important story to hear.

She told us of her son and how loved and wanted he was. How he came from a normal loving home. How he was a very normal child and teen. How he stumbled into opioid use due to a painful injury. How that led to running with a bad crowd. How the pull of the addiction was so much stronger than the pull of his family. How no matter what she did she couldn't cure his addiction. How his family tried to get him treatment. How they tried to help him without enabling him. How none of their efforts were enough. How the opioids were stronger than their love for him. How they couldn't save him. How the police came to their door for the final time. How he had overdosed. How it finally killed him. His name was Nicholas Fridd. He was a son, a brother, a grandson, a cousin, a friend, a partner and a father. It was a harrowing story but it brought it all to our doorstep and made it more real than the nightly news ever could. Connie's mission now is to put a familiar face to this insidious epidemic and she certainly succeeded with us. Great presentation!

In other news, there are still tickets available for the SOAR Café fundraising luncheon on May 11. It promises to be a wonderful event and people are encouraged to jump on these last few tickets while they last. Please contact either Sandra Kilian (517)262-0365; Barb Markowski (517)206-0064 or Brandi Bruckler (517)240-2441. Hopefully more people will be able to support this worthy cause. ECW has supported it so far by selling tables, donating purses and selling individual tickets. We have also donated \$1,000 to off-set the cost of the food and help increase the profit margin. The luncheon takes the place of our regular ECW meeting and there will be no business discussion.

ECW continued...

At our June meeting we will be discussing the questionnaire that was filled out earlier in the year. We will also discuss plans for next year's agenda, so storm those brains, write down your ideas, and bring them to the June meeting to share with the rest of us. Where do you see ECW going in the future? What form do you see it taking? Would you like more speakers? More spiritual presentations? Perhaps some field trips? If so where would you like to go? Do you see ECW as a social group? A mission style group? If you had your way what would you do to improve our meetings? What do you like about the meetings so far this year? What would you like to do differently? What would you like to keep the same? Just a few things to consider as you prepare for this important June meeting. Further details of this meeting are forthcoming, as well as details about our July meeting where we will learn about Doctors without Borders.

Enjoy the month of May and the anticipation of warmer weather and summer flowers.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Rowley, Vice-President
 St. Paul's ECW.



Choir notes...



So proud and grateful for the dedication and hard work of all our choir members and bells, with excellent direction by Michelle Gibson. Our young musicians were wonderful, and brought added depth to our Holy week music.

Love, *Genette*



Thank
 you!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Hospitality is a very important service of the church as well as being a ministry that provides opportunity to bond over food and fellowship. Serving as a coffee hour host/hostess allows one to serve our church in a very special way. Hosts can sign up as single individuals, a couple, two couples, or even a group who would be willing to share the responsibility of several Sundays. Items brought in for coffee hour can be as simple as cookies, or crackers and cheese, or chips and dip /salsa.

Typically a sweet and /or salty item. We also request that some sort of fresh fruit or veggie also be served for those who may have sensitivity to processed food items.

Signup is available on the calendar located on the table where the refreshments are available.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with the Hospitality Hostess on duty for the month. Their name is posted on the counter along with their photo to help you identify them. You may also contact Rhonda Rudolph at rlrudolph61@gmail.com or (517) 474-4368. (Hospitality Co-Chair).



Coffee Fellowship



All are welcome to attend the 2019 confirmation service on Thursday, May 23rd at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lansing. Please be in prayer for candidates Cassie Meyer, Heather Youell, Garry Trammell, Jan Osborn, Dana Burkey, Heidi and Joe Lathrop as they prepare for confirmation and reception into our Church.



Sally McKinnon	May 1
Debbie Batchelder	May 3
Evelyn Lagow	May 11
Susan Howe	May 22
Joette Rabaskas	May 27
Elaine Hale	May 30



Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful Mothers of St. Paul's!

Join us for worship on Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12, 2018



Chris & Diane Scheele	May 4
Bob & Marianne Fowler	May 19
Barney & Rhonda Rudolph	May 23
Thomas & Sandra Kilian	May 25



MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir	5 pm Cardio Drumming class 7 pm Handbells		10 am Worship Committee
5 Birthdays & Anniv	6	7	8	9	10	11
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee 4:00 pm Get Real	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drum 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am John Whiting Funeral * 6:30 pm Choir *No Bible Study or Holy Eucharist	5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 7 pm Handbells Practice		11 am SOAR Lunch & Auction 
12 Noisy Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Episcopal 101 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour Mother's Day 	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 1 pm Brownell Lunch 6:30 pm Choir	5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 5:30 pm B & G 6 pm Handbells Practice		8 am Judson Center/Pride Training
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Toastmasters 6:30pm Vestry Mtg	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir	5 pm Big B/S 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Handbells Practice		8 am Judson Center/Pride Training
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting Memorial Day 	10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Toastmasters INTERFAITH DINNER	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir	5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Handbells Practice	 <p> THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SONG HE HAS BECOME MY SALVATION. <small>PSALM 118:14, ESV</small> </p>	