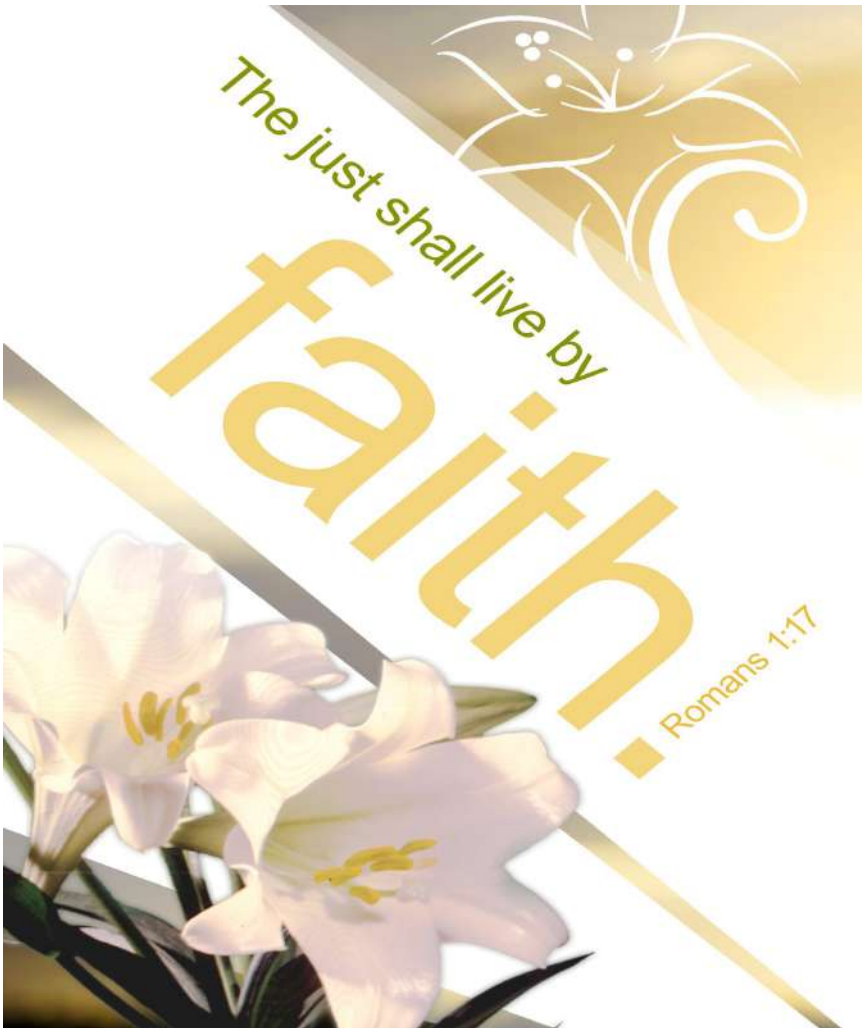


April
2021
Volume
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THE EPISTLE

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



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Rector's Corner

It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Philippians 2:16

I'm tired of holding on. I'm tired of my hopes of a full church being dashed. I'm tired of worrying about my folks getting vaccinated and trying to give pastoral care online and seldom in person. I'm tired of how this awful time has brought out the worst in family, friend and neighbor. I guess I'm just tired. I know you can commiserate with much of what I just wrote, and I appreciate you continuing to read this article.

My grandmother used to exclaim "Lord give me strength!" whenever she was frustrated and I find myself uttering the same exclamation lately. Many of you know I have bad knees and I've been awaiting the surgery to replace my right knee. As time gets closer my patience grows weary and I just want it to be done! On April 21st Dr. Ekpo at Henry Ford Allegiance Hospital will replace my knee and I'll be at home on medical leave for at least 3 weeks. I'm looking forward to it and dreading the pain, PT and loss of independence it will bring for a time. I guess what I need to do is...wait for it...hold on!

Patience has never been my strong suit and I get impatient and especially when I am the patient! We've all been the patient for so long we long to break free of our medical barriers and run amok together enjoying a carefree life in the growing warmth and light of Spring. However...

We must hold fast. We must hold on. We must hold to what we know will help keep us and others safe. There are so many vulnerable adults and children who are terribly susceptible to this damnable virus and it is worth our discomfort to see them safe when we're around each other. Wearing masks, hand washing, staying physically distant is not labor in vain. It works, but only if we hold on. As we celebrate the gift of Easter let us put our tiredness at the foot of the cross where our exhausted savior gave everything for us. He died to defeat death and we must give up some freedom now so that more of us are around to taste true freedom together again.

My prayer is for your Easter to be so full of Jesus' Resurrection glory that there's no room for anger, frustration and all the stress of trying to make things "perfect" in our imperfect world. In following the risen Christ we love God and when we choose to act in safety, we love our neighbor as ourselves. If you're missing someone pick up the phone and call them. Tell them how much you love them and how much God loves them. Maybe, just maybe, we can see each other again at Pentecost and gather like the disciples did waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Hold on, help is on the way and the Lord is as near as your next breath.

Faithfully,

Sarah+

Curate's Report



Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6.4

If you are like me, Lent was a time to study, reflect, and rest in hopeful anticipation. Not only was I hopeful in celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, I remain hopeful that the pandemic will wind down so we can work toward gathering as a community again. And I know I share this anticipation of gathering together with many. We look to finding a new normal and Easter reminds us in our new life we are united with Jesus.

The good news of new life in the resurrection of Jesus couldn't come at a better time. With our daily lives still limited by the pandemic the celebration of this good news is certainly welcome. Our preparation during Lent for Easter has surely helped each of us to see Jesus in the world today. The Easter season reminds us our challenge is to look for where we see Jesus working in the world in new ways in our daily lives.

I see Jesus working through our young families. They are constantly growing older and experiencing new things and learning new things for the first time. The month of March brought a visit to the Ella Sharp Museum galleries, including the Frida Kahlo exhibit, as well as the planetarium which took us on a virtual trip to Mars! I see this work in the Stations of the Cross project our young families did by taping stations and submitting thought provoking questions. And I see this work with the youth group who is planning a service project of working with Chef Jeremiah and Ella to prepare and serve a meal at the Interfaith Shelter. These things inspire me to find new ways I can reflect the gifts Jesus has given me in the world, and I hope they do for you, too.

St. Paul's is helping to make Easter special for our youngest members this year by having a safe Easter egg hunt as well as with a visit with Stephen, rabbit of Pastor Sarah and Dee. Let's head into this Eastertide with eagerness, anticipation and enthusiasm to living out this new life, unified with Jesus.

Here to serve,
Melissa





From Our Sr. Warden...

There is still hope for Spring. We have enjoyed several days of warm, SUNNY weather and that helps make us all feel better. We see hope in the weather and hope for relief from COVID 19. Yes, there is hope at the end of the tunnel. As more and more people get vaccinated, and life becomes safer, restrictions will be raised.

We know how frustrating it is to still have our church doors only partially open, but we are working hard to get them open a little wider. Our main concern is for the safety of our congregation and the well being of all of our parishioners. Just when the number of new COVID cases start to decrease and we make plans to open, the numbers increase and we are currently in the red zone for number for new cases. We will open as soon as it is safe and feasible. Thank goodness we have the services online!! Please bear with us as we struggle with this difficult decision.

Being a choir member, I have missed the choir and the music we provided. It has been a blessing having Christy, Wayne and Sarah leading us in our morning hymns, and I want to thank them for offering this ministry to the congregation. Another special thank you goes to church members who have provided special music to our services. It is wonderful to see members share their musical talents with all of us and it provides such a spiritual uplifting to the service. Thank you for sharing and I hope you will continue to bless us with your talents.

Debbie Batchelder
Sr. Warden



*Thank
You!*



Rev. Sarah gives thanks to everyone in the parish who donated for the lovely bicycle for her 50th birthday present! She hopes to be on it by July after healing from her knee replacement surgery. The Rev. Jadon Hartsuff and the Rev. Julia Dempz will supply while Rev. Sarah is on medical leave. Many thanks to them for their assistance. Please call the office with any pastoral concerns and Alice will have clergy follow up.



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

Happy Easter, Everyone. As we enter this time of resurrection and joy, let us concentrate on all the good things in our lives. It has been hard not meeting over the past year but I am hoping we may be able to have a social meeting outdoors in May. Watch your emails and the May epistle for details. The Board will also be discussing making spring outreach contributions. In the past we have given to Aware Shelter, Jackson Friendly Home, and Priceless Gifts. We will probably be doing the same groups but if you have an organization you would like for us to give a contribution, please email me. Have a blessed spring.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Kilian,
President



Building & Grounds

I believe the winter weather is finally behind us, so I was thinking about a spring clean-up the first Saturday after Easter. It would be April 10th, and we will need a few rakes and shovels. Paper lawn bags will be provided. We didn't put mulch down last year, but we will need to this year. We will meet at the church at 9 AM (weather permitting). If you need more information, please call Kyle King at 517-745-7569. All helping hands are welcome and appreciated!

We are looking for parishioners to become ushers at the 8 AM & 10:30 AM services. We had a meeting last week and would love to have a few more join the "Usher Corps". If interested, please contact Kyle King

Our Sexton, Terry has been replacing ceiling lights with new LED ones and replacing some of the diffusers that have turned yellow with age. India has been giving the Nursery much needed attention in anticipation of opening the building again. Sanitizing is very important and timely for everyone to be careful. Use your head, we are a congregation but we cannot congregate just yet!

Be safe, stay well,
Kyle King
Chairperson, Buildings & Grounds
Capt. Of Usher Corp.





Join us each Sunday at 10:30 am for the Facebook Livestream of our service from inside our sanctuary!

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

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

You can also view the service later on Facebook.



Diana Sinclair is faithfully collecting names for our prayer list, so please call

(517-250-9729) or

email her at finnikki96@aol.com to add anyone for whom you'd like the Church to pray. We are so grateful for the prayers of this Church family and join with you in asking God's blessing on those we love and all who are fighting to keep us safe and healthy.



Pastor Sarah's Weekly Zoom Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10am

Follow this link to Zoom in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005898502>
No Password required



Join Pastor Sarah each Wednesday at **8pm on Facebook live** <https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi> for the service of Compline from the Book of Common Prayer with the commemoration of saints that day.

Adult Forum

Note the new time:
9:00 am-10:00 am on Sundays
via Zoom-

All adults are welcome to join!
For the Zoom meeting link and more info contact:

Eric R. Magnusson,
Email: emagnusson75@gmail.com

Cell: 248-842-1859

Meeting ID: 992 3997 8197

Passcode: Adult Forum

What Does the Easter Bunny Have to do with Easter?

Truth be told, the origins of associating rabbits with Easter are uncertain. Certainly none of us can cite scripture talking about how a rabbit relates to Easter! Some say the Easter bunny is thought to have been a pagan theme incorporated into the Christian celebration of Easter. They say the goddess of spring and fertility, Eostra, had a rabbit for her symbol because rabbits have a high reproduction rate (NBC). When Roman Catholicism became the dominant religion in Germany the Catholics took in this pagan tradition. Easter bunny legends in Germany are documented back to the 1500's and some later stories talked about this rabbit laying eggs and hiding them in a garden (NBC). From there the Easter bunny came to America with those German Roman Catholics who settled in Pennsylvania in the 1700's. (History).

So why talk about this in our newsletter? I'd say the pagans were onto something with the rabbit as a symbol of spring and new life. Rabbits are vigilant, sensitive to sound, and sleep with their eyes open! Sleeping with eyes open sounds vigilant for the resurrection and for openness today as to how God is interacting in our lives. In addition, early Christians thought rabbit eggs were a symbol of new life. They then associated eggs with the new life associated with Jesus' resurrection at Easter (Buildfaith). From now on when we think about the Easter bunny, we can associate this with vigilance and new life in Christ Jesus our savior.

-Rev. Melissa



Works Cited:

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Greeson, C. (2018, March 05). Why Eggs on Easter? A Christian Answer. Retrieved March 26, 2021, from <https://buildfaith.org/why-eggs-on-easter/>

History.com Editors. (2009, October 27). Easter symbols and traditions. Retrieved March 26, 2021, from <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/easter-symbols>





“HOLY GLASS”

A Tour of the Windows of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Jackson, MI

In 1839 the Articles of Organization of St. Paul's Episcopal Church were adopted, and the first Vestry was elected. The congregation began to grow and soon outgrew the small white Gothic church that sat 100 people.

In 1850 the construction of the new Romanesque style brick parish church began and was completed in 1853. And this is when the history of our stained glass windows begins.

The earliest windows in the new church were constructed of lead came and clear colored glass, and the shapes were geometric, not pictorial as the later windows would be. Today we are fortunate to have the two remaining original windows located in the twin towers on the church facade. Their beauty lies in their simplicity and soft clear colors and in the miracle that they were restored in 2002 and we still have them in their original locations. The best place to view one is in the bell tower stairwell.



In the years 1865-1900 the building expansion continued in several stages. The north transept (now the chapel) was added in 1888. The Good Shepherd window was donated by the children of the St. Paul's Church school and was known as the "Children's Window." The price was approximately \$205. However, in a later renovation (1927), the north transept was converted to a Chapel and the top sections of the Good Shepherd window were covered by the new barrel vaulted ceiling. It wasn't until 2001-2002 that we realized that the whole top section of the Good Shepherd window was only visible from the attic and had been covered over by the rounded ceiling and moldings. In 2002, the window was removed, restored and replaced in its original form after construction of an intersecting barrel vault.

The interesting thing about the four-panel window is that the three lower sections did not start life together! They were combined from older windows by a Chicago studio to create the very large window as requested by St. Paul's. The three lower panels depict the birth of Christ (left), Jesus the Good Shepherd (center), and Jesus ministering to the children (right). If you look closely at the two side panels, they are similar in the German stained glass art tradition including the dirndl skirts, heavy outlines, and stylized faces. The center panel depicts Jesus in a Victorian artistic style, more natural features with an approachable, kindly face. It was an "assembled window," ordered to fit the Chapel space and requested subject matter.



Please take time to visit these windows and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Next month we will discuss some of the windows from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Please enjoy our windows!
Joyce Grace, April 2021

A Year of Thanks

-by Curate Melissa

For the calendar year of 2021 I'm emphasizing a year of thanks to some of those ministries which help make St. Paul's be all that it is. Each month this year you will see me highlight one or more of the ministries and thus ministers of our parish community. Stay tuned to see if your ministry is one highlighted!

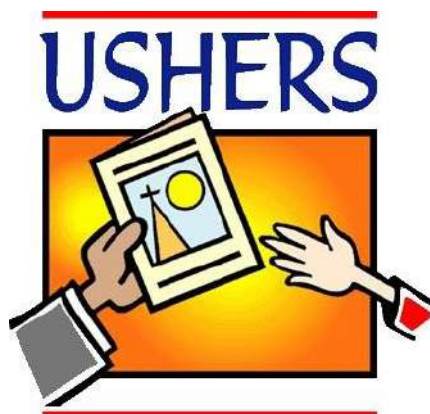
The ministry I am highlighting this month is ushering. This important ministry has been on break during the pandemic without in-person services. The one exception to that is Harry Strait who has been faithfully ushering at the early service for our non-tech parishioners.

As you may or may not be aware, ushers have many duties on Sunday mornings. Not only do they greet people, they police up any trash or leftover items in the sanctuary, keep an eye out for late comers and help them enter quietly, ring the bell at during the eucharistic prayer, in non-pandemic times take the gifts to the altar, and in pandemic times help ensure pandemic safety protocols are followed at every turn. These are just a few things our ushers are called upon to do.

Our 8:00 a.m. service ushers are Bill Boody, Deanna and John Leicht, and Harry Strait.

The 10:30 a.m. service ushers are Barb Duke, Laura Orr, Christie Swanson, Dennis Marsh, Tom and Samuel Holsinger-Friesen, Bob Duke, Kyle King, Dana Burkey, Jan Osborn, Barney Rudolph, Debbie Batchelder, and Wayne and Romelle Frey. And recently retired ushers are Paul Velandra, Margaret O'Connor and Jeff Thomas. Certainly many others have been ushers over the years at St. Paul's. Now that is a lot of ushers to be thankful for!

With the prospect of getting back together for in person worship services, the ushers are in the process of coming back together as a group and have recently met. Without ushers, we would not be able to safely return to worship during the pandemic. So a big **THANKS** goes out this month to the usher crew as they plan to help us gather safely when the time comes.



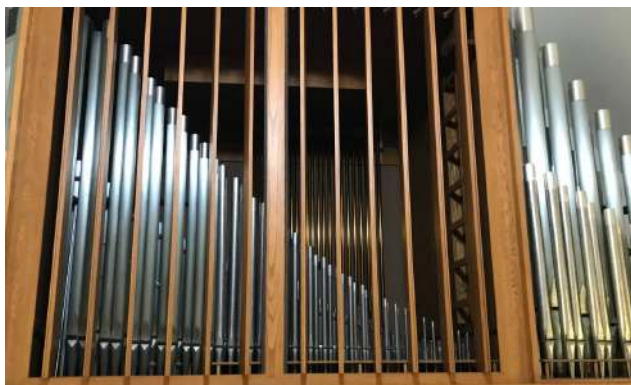
How do you control the volume on an organ?

Unlike many electronic items today, the pipe organ does not have a volume knob. The organist cannot just make it louder or softer by turning a dial. So what do organists do? There are a few choices. The first is to change the registration of a piece – that is use more/less ranks of pipes or pipes that produce a louder/softer sound. Another choice is to use the Swell (or Expression) pedal. This pedal opens and closes a set of shutters (like Venetian blinds) over the front of a large chest/box containing some sets of pipes. When the shutters close, the sound is muffled by the physical barrier of that wooden wall of shutters. At St. Paul’s, there are swell boxes containing some ranks of pipes in both the left and right pipe chambers. There is a separate pedal to operate each box. Not all pipes are in Swell boxes, and the pipes in the chests with the shutters are said to be “under expression” because of the ability to control the volume. The Swell box can be anywhere from completely shut, to open just a crack, to halfway open, etc. When the Swell shutters are completely open the full volume and brilliance of the pipes is heard.

An option is called Crescendo pedal. This large pedal slowly adds ranks of pipes as you push the pedal open until all the pipes of the organ are playing when the pedal is fully depressed. The organist does not usually have control over which stops are added and in which order, however, since this is most often a standard, set function designed by the organ builder and can’t be changed for different pieces of music.

The final option is used only when the organist is serious about the volume level! The Sforzando pedal or piston immediately “pulls out all the stop” or turns on every rank of pipes that the organ has. It is generally only used at the end of an incredibly exciting, joyful piece of music. The congregation will not miss hearing any few measures of music played with the “Sfz” activated!

-Julie J. Baglien, Organist



Swell box shutters open

Swell box shutters closed





Robert Kobs	April 3
Jon Gould	April 6
Janet Wesch	April 7
Xavier Radabaugh	April 12
Christy Randall	April 15
Diana Sinclair	April 20
Cassie Meyer	April 23
Ron Rowley	April 30
Katie Mulhearn	April 30
Alarik Brethauer	April 30

iBelieve.com
**30-Day Scripture
 Writing Challenge**

April

God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day this month to write down the following Scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the Scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 1 | 1 Peter 5:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 16 | 1 Corinth. 15:54-58 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 2 | Hebrews 11:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 17 | Joshua 10:25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 3 | Isaiah 40:31 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 18 | John 5:6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 4 | Jeremiah 29:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 19 | 1 Peter 1:3-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 5 | Colossians 1:27 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 20 | Job 5:16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 6 | Philippians 1:6 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 21 | Psalms 147:11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 7 | Romans 5:5 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 22 | Proverbs 13:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 8 | Romans 15:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 23 | Romans 5:2-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 9 | Romans 8:24-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 24 | Proverbs 24:14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 10 | Philippians 3:13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 25 | Romans 12:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 11 | Romans 8:28-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 26 | Romans 15:4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 12 | Psalms 3:2-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 27 | Hebrews 11:1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 13 | Colossians 3:1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 28 | Proverbs 23:18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 14 | Isaiah 43:1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 29 | 1 Corinth. 13:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 15 | 2 Corinth. 4:16-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 30 | Revelation 21:4 |

Come back next month for a new Scripture writing challenge!



ALTAR FLOWERS

Can you help?
 Altar flowers are needed for Sunday, May 30th. The cost is \$42.40 (this includes tax and delivery) per vase.

Please call Cheryl Gumper at 517-789-7982 or contact the church office.