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THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
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Rector's Corner

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. BCP p. 832

Friends,

Springtime brings rebirth and renewal all around us. Bursting with green and blossoms, our town is looking lovely and hope is once again filling the air for a summer where we can be together again. I've been recuperating after my surgery and going through the arduous process of Physical Therapy. God sustains me with your calls, cards and prayers and those who have dropped by to check in and take Jack for a walk in Cascades Park. Thank you so much for your lovingkindness!

This May brings the end of our Sunday School year and what a year it has been! We've seen depth and breadth in the growing faith of our St. Paul's kids and our three Youth Group members, having finished their Confirmation curriculum, will be Confirmed by our Bishop on Sat. June 19th at St. Barnabas in Chelsea. Elaine Themm will also be Received into the Episcopal Church at the same time her eldest Henry will be confirmed. This past year has been so hard on all our families with kids and we're so grateful for their faithfulness in attending our Zoom classes, and are blessed with kind and faithful teachers like Kim Perlos, Tom Holsinger-Friesen and Rev. Melissa who shepherd our kids each week. We're tremendously thankful for Eric Magnusson who has faithfully directed our Adult Forum each week as well. Thanks all!

As more and more worshippers join us on Sundays, we are looking to the rebirth of a few of our ministries as well. Our Mission and Outreach team needs to restart and refresh its plans for post-pandemic relationship building in Jackson. I pray that some of you will be willing to serve on this vital team that seeks to form partnerships and serve the people of Jackson in the name and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to hire a new choir director in the last quarter of our year to start after Christmastide and we'll need to form a small committee to define the position and do a thorough search. Finally, there are long overdue maintenance items we need to address such as the boiler under the sanctuary. The diocese has funds available to pay for big ticket items such as this and your Vestry will work with Kyle and the Building and Grounds team to move this project forward soon.

Please keep Rev. Deacon Melissa Congleton in your prayers as she prepares for her priestly ordination sometime in June. God willing, we will host this joyous event at St. Paul's and all details will be made available as soon as we have them from the Bishop's office.

Faithfully,
Sarah

Curate's Report



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

Friends in Christ,

Now is the time we celebrate the resurrection for the 50 days of the Easter season! I can't think of a better way to celebrate than in our actions. St. Paul's has been able to carry on some of our Easter traditions. The children had an Easter egg hunt staged by the Confirmation group youth with the help of Kim Perlos. Many others contributed to this endeavor by donating candy and small toys and stuffing the eggs. The Confirmation group followed up with a service project of planning for, making, and serving a dinner at the Interfaith Shelter. This was done with the help and expertise of Chef Jeremiah and Ella. And the youth were able to interact firsthand with some of the residents. They truly were loving their neighbors in a genuine way.

The children and youth also recently got together with the children of Jackson First Presbyterian Church to celebrate earth day, appreciate God's creation, and to make seed bombs. The seed bombs contain wildflowers and ornamental grasses. Keep an eye on the memorial garden for some of the wildflowers coming up there in the weeks ahead.

Summer planning is starting for our children and youth and the Bishop has announced the diocese will be having some activities this summer for kids. More information on that will be announced when it becomes available.

During Sarah's absence I will have some additional responsibilities of pastoral care, preaching, and worship leadership. I look forward to the vestry and other volunteers continuing to pull together in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, we can keep Sarah in our thoughts and prayers as she recovers from surgery and endeavors to make strides to getting around better.

In the weeks to come let's remember every day the joy and hope Easter brings us and celebrate each of our small victories along the way. After all, the gifts of joy, hope, and the resurrection are what we believe! Thanks be to God.

Here to serve,

Melissa





From Our Sr. Warden...

Seeing parishioners back in the sanctuary has been wonderful! Unfortunately, I have been on the disabled list since my knee replacement surgery on April 8. I have not been able to attend church in person, but it warms my heart to see friends back in church as I watch online. We realize the COVID cases continue to increase in our area, but we are so glad we can offer in person worship to those who choose to attend. And even better, we continue with our online service for those who choose to stay home and watch from the comfort of their homes. Having options has been wonderful.



Just as I am beginning to heal, Pastor Sarah is undergoing the same operation 2 weeks after mine. Hopefully we will both be able to heal quickly and get back to church. It is a long process to fully recover, but we will both be on the mend and able to hobble around soon.

Spring is a beautiful time of year and we are hopeful that the last of the snow storms are behind us. Spring activities will start soon and you will be hearing about more opportunities to help around the church in the coming weeks.

Faithfully,

Debbie Batchelder

From Our Jr. Warden...



Here we are in the middle of the Easter Season and we are experiencing the highest numbers of the pandemic. The good news is that the vaccine is opened to all people above the age of 16 years old. Even with the higher numbers, we are beginning to worship in person in limited numbers. When we can't worship in person, we have a dedicated team of technical people able to broadcast the 10:30 service. A great big **Thank you** to the techies, with your help we are still connected in spirit and praise. Reverend Sarah went in for knee surgery on the 21st and we all wish her the best. Sr. Warden Debbie has been recouping from knee surgery, and we wish her the very best of recovery also. I hope it is not in the water, and I for one will not be drinking the water! I would like to thank all who put their trust in me, by appointing me Jr. Warden. I will work my best to fulfill your confidence in me.

Respectfully

Dennis Marsh

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

Happy May my ECW sisters! It's been a minute since I last wrote an Epistle article. I have been very busy in the interim and while life continues to be a bit of whirlwind, we are beginning to see light at the end of a very long, dark tunnel. Spring is finally here and Mother Nature is putting on her beautiful spring attire. I hope you have had some time to get outside and enjoy the beauty.

Let's start this off with some good news, shall we? We are very excited to announce ECW's full membership will meet in person on June 12, at 11 AM! The meeting will be outdoors at the home of Cheryl Gumper, 3801 Stonewall Road. This meeting will be social only and will not have a business component. It is for us all to get back together and catch up after this very long time of lockdown and quarantine. What a treat that will be! Of course, all state guidelines will be followed with distance etc. There will be individual desserts available along with coffee and water. It will be such a delight to see everyone again and I hope you all are looking forward to it as much as we are.

Aside from that, the board will meet on May 23 to dust off the cobwebs and discuss our plan for the future. If necessary, there might be a short announcement regarding the outcome of this meeting during our social gathering.

While this is a short article I hope you find the good news to you liking. It will be a nice change as we start to get back to some semblance of normal. We thank God that we all have survived this far and look forward to seeing all your lovely, smiling faces in June. Continue to mask up, wash your hands and stay safe.

Respectfully Submitted

Valerie Rowley, Vice President, ECW



Do you still need pledge envelopes?



Many people have said they don't need them since they are paying electronically or mailing in their donations. However, if you would still like them for 2021, please call (517-787-3370) or email Alice in the church office and she will be happy to get some ready for you to pick up, or she can mail some out to you.



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

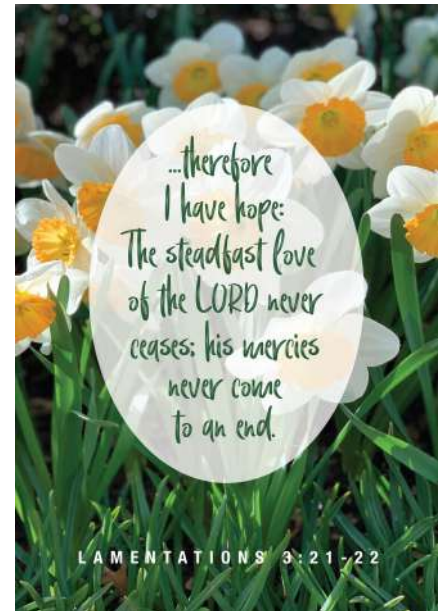
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Building & Grounds



The month of May holds better promise than last May. The weather is showing promise of a great season of gardening. The photo's of the Memorial Garden and Cole's wall express the beauty of nature at her best. Plans are forming for planting the annuals. We have a few shrubs needing replacement as well. We are hopeful for moving forward with projects outside and inside our facilities. Would like to call a meeting of the Buildings & Grounds on May 13th at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend as we plan for the spring and summer needs of our parish.

Respectfully,
 Kyle King
 Chairperson,
 Building & Grounds



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!

With the children and youth Christian Education year coming to an end later this month, the ministry I am highlighting is our Christian Educators. St. Paul's is blessed to have many people qualified to teach our children and lead the adult forum. Our educators for the last year are listed below.

Eric Magnusson – Adult Forum

Pastor Sarah & Curate Melissa – Confirmation Preparation

Tom Holsinger-Friesen – Grades 4-5

Kim Perlos – Grades K-3

These educators have been very dedicated to their groups and work to bring Scripture alive. For adults and kids alike the Zoom sessions have been a safe way to connect. This was an especially important gap during the pandemic when many stayed at home and K-12 education was mainly at home. Our educators have done an excellent job cultivating their groups as a way to have some ownership in beliefs and in St. Paul's as a whole.

I would also like to highlight each of our parents as a Christian Educator over this past year as well. Due to the circumstances of the pandemic, families had many take home activities this year such as the Epiphany Pageant, Stations of the Cross Project, and Lent activities. Our parents have shouldered a big responsibility to make sure those conversations about what it means to be a Christian, and why we do what we do are covered. And it is evident this education is happening in the words and actions of our children and youth.



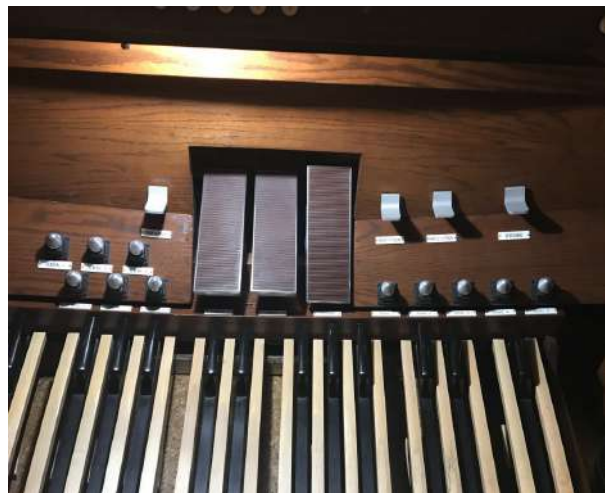
Organist's Corner



What are all of the things on the Organ Console?

The console of the organ is the desk that has the keyboards (manuals), the pedalboard, all of the stop controls, and the music rack. The keyboards are familiar to most people, and each keyboard has a specific name. From top to bottom on any three-manual organ, the keyboards are named the Swell, the Great, and the Choir.

Many are often not aware that the pedalboard works just like a keyboard for the hands but is played by well-trained feet. Organ music is most often written on three staves (the set of five lines that represent musical pitches). The feet can play complicated accompaniments, solo melodies, or be the lowest voice in a piece of music. You may have noticed that organists use special shoes to play the pedalboard. We need a supple leather bottom to feel the pedals and a heel of a certain height and width that allows us to skip over pedals and not get stuck in between pedals. Very practically, we also do not want to bring the outdoor dirt onto the pedals.



Just above the pedalboard, there are three completely different large pedals for opening and closing the swell boxes and activating the crescendo function. We also have some slightly cone-shaped “toe pistons” that the organist’s foot can tap to change the registration settings on the organ, just like the thumb pistons that are located under the keyboard.

Above the keyboards are some vertical tiles that are called “couplers.” These allow the organist to connect different ranks of pipes to different keyboards. There are also four couplers (just above the pedalboard and toe pistons) that can be activated by the feet. They look like large levers. The “Swell to Great” coupler allows us to play ranks of pipes that belong to the Swell division by using the Great keyboard, for example. The “Great to Pedal” coupler would let us choose ranks of pipes from the Great keyboard and have the pedals play them. In addition to telling which pipe divisions are coupled, the couplers may be labeled 16’, 8’, or 4’. This means, respectively, that the pipes would be played an octave lower, at actual pitch, or an octave higher. In that fine art of registration, sometimes the organist just needs to “borrow” something from another section of the organ to make the perfect sound.



-Julie J. Baglien, Organist



Sally McKinnon	May 1
Debbie Batchelder	May 3
Joanne Johnston	May 8
Evelyn Lagow	May 11
Susan Howe	May 22
Joette Rabaskas	May 27
Elaine Hale	May 30



Chris & Diane Scheele	May 4
Bob & Marianne Fowler	May 19
Barney & Rhonda Rudolph	May 23
Thomas & Sandra Kilian	May 25
Eric & Natalie Magnusson	May 31

Did we miss you or a family members birthday or anniversary? We may not know it! Please call or e-mail Alice at the church office so we can put it on our list for next time!



Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful Mothers of St. Paul's!
Join us for worship on Mother's Day Sunday, May 9, 2021



SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Identity in Christ

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Day 1: John 1:9-13 | Day 17: II Timothy 2:1-7 |
| Day 2: Ephesians 1:1-4 | Day 18: II Timothy 2:8-12 |
| Day 3: Ephesians 1:5-10 | Day 19: II Timothy 2:15-16 |
| Day 4: Ephesians 1:11-14 | Day 20: II Timothy 2:19-22 |
| Day 5: Romans 14:7-9 | Day 21: Titus 2:11-14 |
| Day 6: Genesis 1:26-27 | Day 22: John 17:9-13 |
| Day 7: Colossians 2:6-12 | Day 23: John 17:14-19 |
| Day 8: Colossians 1:1-6 | Day 24: John 17:20-26 |
| Day 9: I Peter 4:1-16 | Day 25: Galatians 3:27-28 |
| Day 10: Revelation 3:5 | Day 26: I Corinthians 6:19-20 |
| Day 11: Revelation 21:5-7 | Day 27: II Corinthians 6:14-18 |
| Day 12: I Thessalonians 4:16-18 | Day 28: Jeremiah 1:5 |
| Day 13: I Thessalonians 5:23-24 | Day 29: I John 3:1-3 |
| Day 14: II Thessalonians 2:13-17 | Day 30: II John 1:9-11 |
| Day 15: I Timothy 6:17-19 | Day 31: III John 1:11 |
| Day 16: I Peter 2:9-10 | |

*Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.
 Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.*

The Ruffled Mango