

Holy Week and Easter Services at St. Paul's Church

❖ **Palm Sunday** ❖

April 14, 8 and 10:15AM Holy Eucharist

With our palms, singing hosannas, we'll enter Jerusalem as Jesus did.

❖ **Easter Triduum** ❖

April 18 at 7PM

Maundy Thursday Celebration of the Last Supper Eucharist and washing of feet.

❖ **Good Friday** ❖

April 19, 12 and 7PM

Celebration of the Passion of Christ in a special liturgy of prayer and music with veneration of the cross.

❖ **Holy Saturday Vigil** ❖

April 20 at 7:30PM

A gathering to keep vigil and light the Easter Fire, recall the story of salvation and celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

❖ **Easter Sunday** ❖

April 21 at 10:15 AM

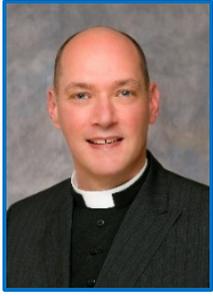
Festive Choral Eucharist with brass quartet to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Easter breakfast will be served by the Men of St. Paul's in the Great Hall from 8:45 to 9:45AM.



Lenten evening sessions will continue on Tuesdays on April 2 and 9 from 5:30 to 7PM. They are simple soup suppers with readings, reflection and Compline





From the Rector...

Oh...we're half way there,
Ah...livin' on a prayer,
Take my hand we'll make I swear,
Oh...livin' on a prayer,
Livin' on a prayer.

These are the words of **Bon Jovi**. When you reach middle age the memories of the past present themselves much more often. I know I am not middle-aged. I have no delusion nor desire to make it to 110. Perhaps we call it middle age because while the destination appears closer than the beginning of the journey, the breadth of our experience is much wider than at the onset. That does place us in the center. Not spatially, but existentially.

The words of **Bon Jovi** (Jovi, a Latin baby name meaning: Jovan, Father of the Sky) do express the thoughts and invitation of Jesus in Luke's gospel and especially his encounters with those who are living in anxiety and have been abandoned by the world. As he moves toward Jerusalem and death, Jesus reaches out, touches and heals. Looking up, Jesus offers his presence of God in prayer, and of prayer as the only assurance that is worth holding onto.

Another song, one of my favorites for Lent, is *Eternal Lord of love* (Hymnal 149). The words of this hymn are a prayer for me each Lent as I attempt to live these forty days and center myself in God's invitation to return home.

*Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire, moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here the goal of all desire.*

The central focus of Lent is not a remembering of Jesus' death and resurrection. That is the focus of the Triduum (Maundy Thursday to the Easter Vigil). Lent's focus is rather the forty years Israel wandered in the desert seeking and encountering her God, moving in God's love and bending herself toward a presence that had not yet been known in the world. That presence was very far off and to be realized in Jesus proclaimed as God's son. Yet, it was already with them – a goal present in their very being as "Son of God."

*So daily dying to the way of self, so daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod, knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so, we are dead and live with you in God.*

I can think of no other succinct expression of all of the thought of St. Paul. As one who persecuted the early Body of Christ, Paul's discernment and decision to leave everything he knew and possessed to follow Christ was truly a daily dying to self. As our namesake, we follow him in that difficult and self-sacrificing orientation. We know ourselves because we are baptized into the death of Jesus. It is in being truly dead that we find life in God with Christ. This is the beginning of eternal life. "For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (1 Cor. 15:52)."

*If dead in you, so in you we arise, you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower,
so, in the Father's glory shall we wake.*

Lent is late this year, yet so perfectly on time. As light expands and days grow longer, we are offered a rich expression of our resurrection hope. The word Lent is a middle-English word which meant "lengthen." In Dutch, which is more rooted in middle English than modern English is, spring is "lente." After such a long winter, perhaps this year we will see more than ever the earth in which we are buried coming to new life. We may be closer to the end than we wish, yet God always holds us in the center. Through your stony ground, can you see the green shoots break? **Brad+**

Who would like to see *A Conversation over Chicken and Dumplings* at Vogel Hall, 3PM, on Sunday, April 7, and go for pizza afterwards? If YOU would, get your own ticket via the Marcus Center, then let Dean and Kathy Thome know, and we'll include you in a reservation at Pizanos (corner of Juneau and Water) afterward.

From John E. Bauer, Senior Warden...

The deadline for this issue of the Apostle preceded the March Vestry meeting. Consequently, I can only report what we planned to talk about on March 20 and invite your questions and comments after the fact. At the same time, this does afford me the opportunity to offer a standing invitation for any St. Paul's member to attend a Vestry meeting. Our regular meetings take place on the third Wednesday of every month beginning at 5:30PM.

There are a few items on our agenda that warrant mention in this article. The congregation's strategic plan has been approved by the Vestry and is ready for presentation to the membership. An adult forum devoted to this subject has been scheduled for Sunday, March 30 at 9AM. I will be presenting the plan in terms of the position we seek to obtain in five years, the measurable goals which will drive our actions, and the initiatives we have identified for 2019 to move us along the path. Your input is vitally important.

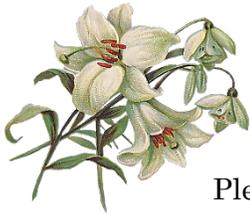


We are discussing the contents and format of a congregational survey which we hope to distribute in early April. Its purpose is to obtain member thoughts and opinions on a wide range of subjects – from worship to parking and everything in between. Updates will be provided in the bulletin.

We have also resolved to begin including financial performance information in each month's Apostle so members can see exactly how our contributions and expenses are tracking. We will show actual and budgeted revenues and expenses for each month as well as the year to date. You can expect to see the first report in the next month's Apostle.

Of course, there are always the mundane items that vestries have to deal with such as apartments to rent, printer and computer networks, building security, parking, inclement weather and committee reports. We gladly tackle these as they arise and are grateful for the opportunity to serve the congregation in this manner.

FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD



As is the tradition at St. Paul's Church, parishioners are invited to contribute to the Easter flower fund in thanksgiving for personally significant occasions in their life, to honor a living family member or friend, or to celebrate the life of a deceased family member or another significant person.

Please attach this form, with your donation, and give it to an usher, place it in the collection plate, put it in the Parish Office mailbox in the kitchen or mail it to the church.

All donations must be received by

MONDAY, APRIL 15!

Please print your name(s) and intention as you wish it to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Donor(s) _____

Please keep my gift anonymous

In memory of _____

In thanksgiving for _____



Be a FAN of Lincoln!

Lincoln Center of the Arts, MPS, in partnership with St. Paul's Church and All Saints' Cathedral, will present their Spring Concert at St. Paul's Church on Wednesday evening, April 10, at 6:30PM. Please join us and the community in support of our young middle school aspiring neighbors. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted toward the purchase of box fans for classrooms at Lincoln. If you

would like to make a donation, please make check payable to "St. Paul's Church" with "Lincoln Fan" on the memo line. Checks may be mailed in to St. Paul's, dropped by office or placed in the Sunday collection.

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 Thomas Goode, *Jr. Warden*
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 Eric Dawson
 Florence Dukes
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Timothy Benson,
Music Ministry Director
 Nevenka & Nikola Dedic
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 Peter M. Johnson
 Bill Jankowski
Buildings & Grounds Team
 Lynne Fields
Administrative Assistant
 Patrice Hansen
Accounting Assistant

♦
 Mary Beth Haubrich, *Editor*
 Sarah Gramentine, *Copy Editor*

SUNDAYS

8AM, Holy Eucharist
 10:15AM
 Holy Eucharist with music
 Nursery service available at 10AM

THURSDAYS

Evening Prayer, 5PM

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of faith being transformed through Christ to embody the healing presence of God's love to one another, our city and the world.



The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 9, at 7PM, to discuss *Creatures of the Same God: explorations in animal theology*, by Andrew Linzey. All are welcome!

Adult Formation sessions for April...

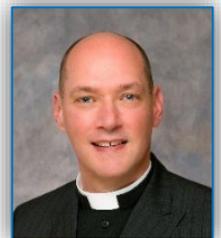
Unless indicated Formation Sessions are held in the Community Room and begin at 9AM

❖ April 7 – *Ethical and Financial Issues in the Used Book World*, Pat Ruttum and Dean Thome, two entrepreneurial book lovers in our midst, help us to understand the issues of the changing world of used books.



❖ April 14 – *One Holy Week*,

St. Paul's Rector **Brad Toebben** leads us through the exodus of the Holy Week leading to Easter.



❖ April 28 – *Outside the Church Walls*, Rev. Deacon Kevin Stewart, the Diocesan Missioner for Community, invites us to ministry and service.

