

# Saint Paul's Messenger

March 2023



*As faithful stewards of God's Grace,  
our mission in Christ is to foster  
community through spiritual growth, witness, and service in the Episcopal tradition*

726 Sixth Street, Brookings SD  
[www.Stpaulsbrookings.com](http://www.Stpaulsbrookings.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/Stpaulsbrookings/>  
605-692-2617

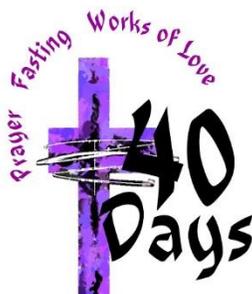
*Established 1893*

Messenger Editor, Chuck Berry

## Winter-Spring Event Calendar

Each Wednesday in March there will be a Lenten Luncheon (\$8) and Community Worship at First Lutheran; worship is a short service and prayer.

March 8 Lent Lunch Fr Larry presides  
March 12 Sunday Eucharist 10:00  
March 12 Daylight Savings (Spring forward)  
March 15 Lent Lunch, Pastor Jess Daum  
March 17 St Patrick's Day  
March 19 Sunday Eucharist 10:00  
March 22 Lent Lunch, Pastor Mike Johnson  
March 20 First Day of Spring  
March 26 Sunday Eucharist 10:00  
March 29 Lent Lunch, Pastor, Ascension Lutheran  
April 2 Palm Sunday  
April 6 Maunday Thursday  
April 7 Good Friday  
April 9 Easter Sunday



## Rector's Message March

I keep watching the two-week forecast with hopes of better temperatures. In *The Perfect Storm* there is a scene where they are trying to turn the boat around so they can head out of the hurricane; the skipper says, "It's not going to let go of us!" Does that describe this winter!? Hang in there a few more weeks!



We are in the season of Lent. I trust that many of you are using the Lenten devotional from Episcopal Relief and Development. It is delivered to my email inbox each morning; I am enjoying the devotionals! They are well written!

This Sunday's sermon includes these verses from Genesis 14: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a

great nation, **and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed**" (Vss. 1-3; NRSVUE). We are blessed that we might be a blessing to others. All too often, we simply bask in our own blessings and do not share those blessings with others.

This morning, after having developed my sermon, I ran across these words from Ron Rolheiser, OMI, "Biblically this is what it means to be blessed. You are blessed, receive a blessing, when you draw life from someone else's pleasure in loving you. As the angels themselves put it at Jesus' birth: 'Peace on earth to those who can receive God's pleasure.'" God loves us; as we draw life from God's loving us, we are called to be a blessing to others.

How do we do that at St. Paul's? Let me begin by pointing to our outreach. Last Sunday we took up a special collection for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria. When combined with some other funds, we raised a bit over \$500 for ERD.

We are a blessing to those who seek assistance through the Rector's Discretionary Fund. We are a blessing to many agencies which we assist with outreach funds. We are a blessing when we share our food and fellowship with one another, and invite new friends to join us. We are a blessing when we carry one another's burdens. We are a blessing when we share God's love for us with others. When someone loves us, and we know it, we are blessed – we are happy. Thanks for being the blessing that you are!

We currently have two book studies in progress – Kierkegaard's *Purity of Heart* and Ann and Barry Ulanov's *Primary Speech: The Psychology of Prayer*. The latter book considers the place of desire, projection, fantasy, fear, aggression, and sexuality in our prayer life. Some of those might strike you as a bit odd, but they are part of our deepest feelings – feelings which God would have us share that we might better know and love ourselves.

Concerning desire, the authors note that all prayer begins in desire. As a consequence of reading this chapter, I have been thinking about my own desires and the role of desire in my prayer life. When I considered my greatest desire, I immediately thought of my longing that people could really live out the two great commandments – to love God and our neighbor.

Related to that is my desire for the common good, and for healing for so many people who are suffering. I encourage you to spend some time wrestling with the identification of your own deepest desires, and how you express those desires in prayer.



You may have heard the rectory recently sustained some damage when the boiler system failed to ignite. This was discovered just before our recent severe cold snap when Fr. Larry checked to see if everything was working properly. A few sheets of dry wall will need to be replaced, and perhaps the carpeting in the southwest bedroom on the second floor, and a few pieces of oak flooring. Our best protection is to have someone living there; we are working toward that end with the fall semester. Fortunately, the damage is nothing like it was ten years ago.

In closing, I ask your prayers for those suffering long-term and fatal illnesses in our family: Cindy Appelt, Sue Hoffman, Patty Kratochvil, and John Taylor. Sue Hoffman will enter hospice care on March 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition to prayers, let's consider what we might do to assist them and their caregivers; ask them what you

might do and where you might most be able to help.

As we move further into Lent, may we be drawn closer to God and to one another.

In Christ's love,  
Fr. Larry



**March-April Birthdays**

Aaron Hovelson, Donald Norgaard, Abby Clever, Teadon Seabury, Theresa Kratochvil, Andrea Woodard, Jenifer Lacher-Starace, HayLee Hovelson, Ben Taylor, Sue Hoffman, George Gehant, Lynn Hublou, Laurie Carruthers, Tom Taylor, Mollie Hublou, Sharon Tjaden, Chase Crawford, Charlie Berry, Berkley Hovelson, Carson Vanduch, Claudia Hovelson, Laura Woodard Clark, Cindy Appelt, Christopher Appelt, Chuck Woodard, Charlie Clever, Erika Klein, Patty Kratochvil, Aric Hovelson

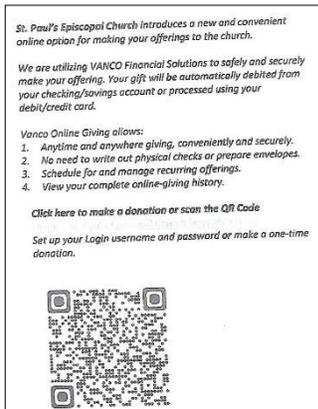
**March April Anniversaries**

Al and Lynn Hublou, Ryan and Emily Braun

**St Paul's Online Offering**

St Paul's has a new online option for making your offerings to the church, which is described by cards placed in each pew. The card gives directions for anytime and anywhere giving, a method for recurring offerings, a QR code, and record of online giving history.

Facsimile of pew-card describing online offering options.



**St. Paul's Vestry Meeting Feb. 13, 2023**

[All members present]

**Lectio Divina: Matthew 17. 1-9**

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting were approved in a motion made by Lynnette Taylor (2<sup>nd</sup>, Lynn Hublou).

**Rector's Report (Fr. Larry Ort):** Fr. Larry conducted Jackie Starace's memorial service, attended Sandy Olson's funeral via Zoom as well as HB1080 Protest and Legislative Coffee. He reviewed the Annual Meeting Minutes with the Vestry. Fr. Larry also attended the Faithful America Webinar; Faithful America is an organization with a membership of approximately 180,000 in America. It is a progressive Christian lobbying group. The discretionary fund balance remains \$1101.95

**Senior Warden's Report (Lynn Hublou):** Lynn noted that past senior warden Mary Lou Berry forwarded Bishop Jonathan's approval of our request to extend Fr. Larry's service.



Lynn addressed soup suppers, pointing out that the same four or five people are providing the soup every month, and two or three of those people are also Church School teachers, who end up coming early to set up, teach, serve, and then clean up.

She would welcome more volunteers to step up, or make one of the nights a pizza night with cash donations.

**Junior Warden's Report (Tasi Barondeau):**

Tasi said she was honored to be the new junior warden and is looking forward to fund raising for a new roof. She also mentioned a pre-Easter cleaning including the woodwork.



Fr. Larry mentioned items on Lee Kratochvil's list such as replacement of shed doors and shingling the garage. Internet access to the thermostats in both the old rectory and the church needs to be completed.

**Treasurer's Report (Bob Klein):** Treasurer Bob said that St. Paul's donations to the Historic Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) offering totaled \$92. He presented a break-down of the various accounts in detail. This information will be added to the Annual Report by common consent. The treasurer's report was accepted in a motion made by Shannon Malmberg (2<sup>nd</sup>, Peg).



**Old Business:** Moving forward on a proposed Episcopal Student Center was approved at the annual meeting. It was decided to form a sub-committee from the Vestry and the congregation that would report to the Vestry. Tasi B. and Fr. Larry volunteered from the Vestry. Other members of the congregation were suggested and will be contacted. Shannon M. attended the Resiliency Training presentation last month and reported that it was very good as well as eye-opening. There will be another presentation on May 10<sup>th</sup> in Brookings and the featured speaker will be Billy Sutton.

**New Business:** The Parochial report was reviewed and approved in a motion made by Peg W. (2<sup>nd</sup>, Lynn H.) By common consent, the ERD Sunday collection on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> (in lieu of the rector's discretionary fund) will be designated for earthquake victims. There was discussion about the possibility of St. Paul's becoming a banned book repository. Lynn H. requested the use of the church basement and patio on April 29<sup>th</sup> for her retirement party

**Next Meeting: March 13, 2023, at 4:30 pm (note time change).**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted,  
Marsha Klein, Clerk of the Vestry

<https://www.episcopalchurchsd.org/page/creation-care-network>.

(by Chuck Berry)

OMGosh! I never thought I'd see it actually OUT THERE for people to see and perhaps use. I am talking about my unpublished 61-page booklet on Creation Care. Check out the Diocesan website.

What I am offering is a year-long educational program based on two principles 1) Education, Reflection, and Action, and 2) linking church Creation Care activities to religious and secular events that are already on the calendar (e.g., Earth Day, Blessing of the Animals, etc.)

The Diocesan Creation Care website has links explaining what Creation Care is all about. But most important are six links to seasonal activities that a congregation can take to bring Creation Care into the education and liturgy of the church.

Much of the information will be familiar to folks at St Paul's because the information has been pre-tested on you over the last 20 years. Fr Larry helped edited every word that is now on the website, and, thankfully, has been a cheer-leader for my efforts.

The most important links are the seasons of Creation Care: Winter, Lent, Spring, Summer, Fall and Advent. When you click on Lent (for example) watch your computer screen closely for a download link to pop up from below; those pop-up downloads are where the "meat" of the

Natural Theology: "theology" literally means "words about God." So Natural Theology means "Nature's words about God."

God is not nature, nor is God bounded by nature, but God is most certainly nature's author – nature's words can point us onward to that which is beyond the bounds.

W. N. Knisely, Episcopal Bishop.

program is located (3-4 pages of seasonal ideas, activities, and resources).

The new Creation Care website is peppered with information about St Paul's, which I use for examples. There are *Brookings Register* articles about St Paul's, Fr Larr's *Register* columns, photos of St Paul's activities and people, and experiences and testimony from our congregation.

A few years ago I led Creation Care workshops at three annual Conventions, and had a few churches agree to try some of these ideas. We formed a loose organization within the Diocese called the Creation Care Network. With this new resource on the Diocesan web page, others don't have to attend a workshop or request my booklet to explore the opportunities for a Creation Care program. I hope the Network grows.

St Paul's Parish can take pride in 1) opening our minds and hearts to the Creation Care message, and 2) our outreach to the community and the Diocese.

You might ask "so what's up for Lent?" There are several recommendations on Lenten Creation Care programs, but the focus is - you know it well - eco-palms, a symbol of conservation and sustainability.



Oh yes, palms also are a symbol of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and being greeted by the people waving palm branches. The palms remind us of the welcoming of Jesus into our hearts and of our willingness to follow him.



Janet Leigh and Fr Larry at coffee and conversation after church. Janet drives from Sioux Falls to be with us.



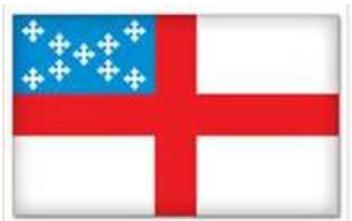
Pancake Sunday, Autumn, and Jack.

# *The Messenger*

Newsletter of  
St Paul's Episcopal Church  
Church  
Established 1893, Parish since 1952

## *Inside the March Messenger*

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**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church**  
726 Sixth Street,  
Brookings SD 57006