St. Paul's News

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - LANSING, MICHIGAN

Volume 39, Issue 2 March 2020



# Bishops' Statement on the COVID-19

Friends in Christ,

As your bishops, we care deeply for the well-being of all our people and for the communities we serve. As Christians, we are called always to love one another as God loves us, caring for the most vulnerable among us. There are many unknowns about this public health crisis, but this much is clear -- social distancing is an essential part of our collective response.

Many of you may have already seen Governor Whitmer's new advisory this morning urging people to avoid large gatherings to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. In light of this recommendation, and in awareness that many in our congregations are amongst the most vulnerable population, we encourage congregations to refrain from coming together for in-person worship for the remainder of the month of March.

As People of God, it is our moral, civic, and spiritual obligation to care for one another by taking the necessary steps to slow the spread of this virus and continue to serve our communities with generosity, hope, and joy.

For more specific recommendations, please see Bishop Perry's letter on page 3.

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant

imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In God's Love,

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry** Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Donald P. Kreiss Bishop, SE Michigan Synod ELCA

**The Rt. Rev. Whayne M. Hougland, Jr.**Bishop, The Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan

The Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Craig A. Satterlee
Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod ELCA

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...and more!



# From The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Dear St. Paul's,

Our vocation as a Christian community is to live with a sense of hope and care for all those in our lives and those whom we do not yet know. To honor these things, it is clear there is a need for us to respond decisively, with great prayerfulness, to the COVID-19 pandemic and refrain from holding all public worship services immediately for the next several weeks until Palm Sunday. Specifically, this means no Sunday services or noon services.

I have participated in conversations with our Bishop and other clergy, and all agree that we are called to be mindful of those who are vulnerable in our congregation and communities; to know that our worship space needs to be one of safety for all persons, and to find new ways to be in community with each other. As a result of these conversations, Bishop Perry of the Diocese of Michigan and the bishops of the Dioceses of Western Michigan and Eastern Michigan have requested that we refrain from all public worship services until Palm Sunday.

Please know this decision was not made lightly nor out of anxiety but rather to show our care for the well-being of all people. This does not give you a Sunday off – it gives you time to pray, study Scripture and spend some time with God. Gather your family around you and say your prayers, giving thanks for all of God's blessings.

Despite our inability to worship together as one body, we still remain a community of God's beloved children. We will need to be resourceful and creative in remaining connected in prayer and worship. Currently there is in development a diocesan Sunday worship that all may stream live in their own homes. (When I have more information regarding this, I will share it with you.) We will need to find ways to be responsive to the growing needs in our community of those who will be out of work, out-of-food or unable to meet their bills. I am asking our Vestry, Mission & Outreach, and Pastoral Care Ministry Teams to meet and discern how we might best engage in caring for others.

In the meantime, the following will be implemented:

- All non-essential pastoral care visits will be cancelled. Visits to homes and hospitals will be restricted to emergencies and extreme cases. We will utilize phone calls instead to touch base and offer prayers for those who are homebound.
- We will create a phone tree to check-in with each other; to offer prayers and to share any new information.
- 3. We will start a text prayer chain with groups of seven. If we have your cell phone number you will be included in this new way of community. Please check the directory and if your cell phone is not listed, email it to the office.

- 4. The Sunday bulletin will be sent out each week in an e-blast. I encourage you to use that on Sunday during the time you would normally be in service. After this Sunday (3/15) we will revert to a Morning Prayer service and the bulletin will be sent via e-blast. If you need one mailed to you, please let us know or contact a vestry member for assistance.
- 5. We will continue the following activities: Bible Study on March 15th, 29th; Lenten Book Study at noon on March 18th and the 25th; Lenten evening program at 6:00 p.m. on March 18th, 25th, and April 1st. Ministry teams are welcome to continue any scheduled meetings. If you cancel a meeting, please notify Theresa in the office.
- 6. Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands. I suggest you say the Lord's Prayer while washing this will take you approximately 20 seconds which is the appropriate time to wash well.
- 7. The parish office will continue its normal hours of 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. If you have a pastoral emergency call the office during office hours or contact Karen+ directly on her cell phone at 517-243-7906.
- 8. If you become sick, please let us know. We will add you to our prayer list and assist you in any way possible.

Unfortunately, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra sacred music concert scheduled for April 4th is being postponed. As soon as we have the new date, we will share it with all.

We have been through crises before and our community and faith has been made stronger because of it. Maintain your faith and trust in God. It is natural to be afraid of something we have little control over. But we can control how we respond. Let us respond with love and care for each other and our community. Let us discover new ways of making community. Let us remember to care for our own needs. Let us remember that God's loving presence was here before the universe itself, and it will be here long after the universe has passed away. Let us continue to lean into God's sustaining presence, loving our neighbors, and facing this with the same trust, faith and love by which we face life on a daily basis. And lastly, let us also never forget to "Be not afraid."

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. As new information arises or changes need to be made, you will be informed via email or website. Decisions regarding Holy Week and Easter will be made early April. You are all in my prayers as we continue this journey together.

Blessings to you and yours,

Karen+

## From Bishop Perry

Dear Friends,

Though I invite you to refrain from in-person, public worship for the remainder of this month, I ask that you be even more connected with one another in this time of medical uncertainty. Let us connect by phone, online and in small groups. Let us check not just on those of us who are vulnerable, but on all of us – for now more than ever, we are in need of God's love, which we so often feel from each other

I hope that our church offices will remain open, and I know that our clergy and lay leaders will continue to care for parishioners and members of the community, those we know well and those neighbors whom we have yet to meet. I expect that much will be asked of us, and I know that with Christ we have much to give.

Please use your wisdom, common sense and accepted medical protocols when you do gather with people.

I ask your prayers and know that you are in mine.

Look to our Diocesan web-page for updates and creative, virtual, liturgical worship and ministry resources. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

All my best,

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry

PS. I will be offering a sermon this Sunday morning that will be available on YouTube and may be used as part of your Sunday morning worship or viewed at another convenient time.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY 18TH VESTRY MEETING

#### Correspondence & Clergy Report - K. Lewis+

- Pastor Linda Farmer Lewis is visiting long term shutins averaging 3 – 4 hours a week.
- Sexton position: Christopher Hart is serving as an interim sexton.
- Homeless / street people: The congregation is reminded not to give them cash. Several are regulars and are already receiving assistance from St. Paul's.
- Lansing Symphony scared music concert: April 4 at St. Paul's. Free tickets are required for attendance. Tickets can be obtained from K. Lewis+.

#### **Discussion Items**

- Vestry Retreat on February 29th: Jim Gettle will lead the retreat.
- Diocesan Vestry Day March 7th at St. Paul's: Bishop Perry will attend. The theme will be Building Blocks of Congregational Development.
- Policies and Procedure: B. Merriman is working on this project of compiling Bylaws, policies, and

procedure of St. Paul's, the Diocesan of Michigan and the National Church into one word file document that is organized by topic.

#### **Action Items**

- Approved to replace and repair the phone system as soon as possible at the cost of \$3550.00 to come from the Building and Grounds expense line in the operating budget.
- Appointment of Jeff Irwin to Vestry: Appointment of J. Irwin to the Vestry was entered into the minutes.
- New credit card with MSUFCU approved
- Parochial Report 2019: Reviewed the Parochial Report comparing similarities to the 2018 report. Report accepted.
- Fund Raiser: Approved a chili cook off as a fund raiser along with Family Feud activity on March 22.
- Parking Lot sealing: Approved to have McCreeney Asphalt Company reseal the parking lot with crack sealing and reinstallation of painted lines for \$1450.

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

## St. Paul's Women's Luncheon

WHEN: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 | 11:30am

WHERE: Coral Gables Restaurant

2838 E. Grand River Ave East Lansing, MI 48823

Spring is finally here, so let's celebrate with lunch, fun and conversation!!

Please R.S.V.P. if you are planning to attend.

Thank you, Barbara Clark bjwclark1@juno.com 517/332-6115

# NEW!! Offering Two Different Classes!

 Adult CPR / AED / First Aid Class -

> April 18, Saturday, Deadline to sign up April 5



Pediatric CPR / AED / First Aid Class

Learn how to care for infants and children to about age 8.

April 25, Saturday, Deadline to signup is April 12

Who should be Red Cross Certified? Everybody!! You never know when first aid skills will be needed. Be Prepared.

- Sign up for one or both classes!
- Learn skills on your home computer your own pace
- Current email address is required when signing up
- Fee \$30 / class payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church at the skill session
- Class size is limited to a maximum of 8, minimum of 4
- Ushers and Sunday school teachers are encouraged to certify at no expense.

Skill sessions: April 18 for Adult and April 25 for Pediatric, Saturdays 9:30 to noon. Signup in the Merrifield Room with email and phone number.

**Questions?** Ask Mark Rudd - mrrudd57@yahoo.com, 517-651-6999, John David Hawkins – ho12t@comcast. net, 517-303-1217 or Sally Boron – sboron@casair.net, 517–669-9468

## Eat, Pray & Play

It's that time of year again. Our annual Women's Retreat is **April 17th-18th** at Geneva Conference Center in Holland. The retreat is entitled "Eat, Play & Pray" and that gives you a good clue as to what we will be doing. Of course, time to rest or go exploring will also be part of our retreat. The cost is \$150 with a deposit of \$75 when you sign up to go. Please remember, you encouraged to seek scholarship assistance if needed. The retreat starts at 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening (dinner on your own) and will end on Sunday afternoon around 2:00 p.m.

You will receive details regarding what to bring, etc. when closer to our departure. Think about joining us — we have a fabulous time — we laugh, we pray, we relax and we learn much about each other and God. For more information contact either Kathy Vogel or Karen Lewis.

#### Eating with Jesus

This year's Lenten series is a 4-week journey through the culture and food of the times within Jesus lived and ministered. Jesus spends a substantial amount of time eating with all sorts of folks and the gospels are filled with stories and parables on food. This year, we will have a chance not only to eat what they ate, but also understand why they reclined when they ate, the value of garlic, why food was so critical to Jesus' ministry. Together we will eat, converse, learn and study a bit of God's word.

Each week will have a featured meal:

- The daily meal of a common person
- The Wedding Feast
- A Harvest Feast
- Banquet

The cost will be \$7.00 per person and scholarship assistance is available. The evenings we will be meeting are Wednesdays March 11th, March 18th, March 25th, and April 1st. All evenings will begin at 6:00 p.m. Join us. If you can't come to all, sign up for the evenings you can attend in the Merrifield Room. It is critical that you sign up for each evening as we will need to know how much food to prepare.

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

## St. Paul's Hosts Sacred Music Concert

The concert scheduled for April 4th has been postponed. A new date in late May is being discussed and we will pass along more information as it becomes available.

The program for the evening includes:

Bach Easter Oratorio: Overture Handel Judas Maccabaeus: Overture

Handel Solomon: Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Bach Suite (Overture) No. e in D

Vivaldi Gloria

This special concert conducted by Maestro Timothy Muffitt is free to our community due to the generosity of the Shawver Fund. Although the concert is free you must request tickets in advance to attend. Tickets will be limited to 2 per household. To request tickets, please leave a written note with your name on it in Karen Lewis+mailbox at the church. We will not be receiving requests via telephone or email.

#### Easter Breakfast!!

We are extremely fortunate to have one of the best catering companies in town utilizing our kitchen on a daily basis. Mouth watering smells emanate from the kitchen each day and many have had the privilege of enjoying their food. We soon will be celebrating our one year anniversary together.

Teresa Barcy, owner of Professional Party Planners has once again offered to provide us with a wonderful breakfast Easter morning in thanksgiving for our relationship. Many of you will remember the delightful French Toast, candied bacon and other tasty bites she treated us to last year. All are welcome! Breakfast will be served **Easter morning from 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.** This will allow our 8 o'clockers as well as our choir members to join in the breakfast celebration.

The meal is free – it is Teresa Barcy's Easter gift to us. All we ask is that you sign your name with the total count of your family members who will be joining us for breakfast.

# Easter Flower Fund Dedication Request I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_\_ This contribution is from: Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Dedication: The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in

Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and write "Flower Fund" in the memo line. Checks and this form can be placed in the collection plate or placed in the Parish mail box outside of the Parish office.

Deadline: Sunday, March 29, 2020

# Mission and Outreach News

#### MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

By Carol Thomas



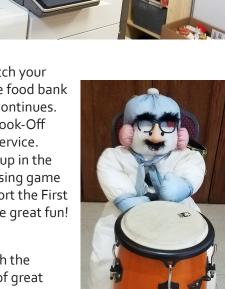
My son, Jacob, and I trained at MSU to be tutors for the Capital Area Literacy Council's Read for SUCCESS program. We chose to work at Riddle Elementary School, a school in St. Paul's neighborhood and a school where St. Paul's congregation supported its food bank last year and continues to support the students and teachers with much welcomed mittens and hats and school supplies. Jacob and I report to Riddle Elementary School every Monday and Wednesday for an hour of reading support. Won't you join us next year? We'll provide training at St. Paul's during the summer and you'll be all set to help make a big difference in the life of a child with a mere two hours of your time each week. Thank you for considering this neighborhood outreach ministry.

Mission and Outreach Committee Members are so blessed to have our resident handyman, John David Hawkins. Not only did he make our Blessing Box, he made shelves in the copy room to store items for the Blessing Box and for our Street Ministry supplies. Thank you, John David, for your handiwork. If you would like to contribute to supply the Blessing Box, please sign up in the Merrifield Room. If you would like to contribute to supply our Street Ministry, please consider donating bus tokens, Subway \$10 gift cards, or men's boots size 9 to 12. Together we will help feed and clothe those in our church neighborhood who need a little extra help.



Our Souper Sunday was a HUGE hit! Thank you so much. We made over \$800, thanks to your generous support. Thank you, soup makers and soup

buyers. Mission and Outreach will match your contribution and deliver a check to the food bank at First Presbyterian Church. The fun continues. Mark your calendar for our first Chili Cook-Off fundraiser. March 22. Right after our service. Dig out your best chili recipe and sign up in the Merrifield Room. We'll also have a rousing game of Family Feud. All proceeds will support the First Presbyterian food bank. And we'll have great fun!



Project Laugh and Play participants have laughed and drummed their way through the winter. A drumming group from Bath joined us in February. Wow! What fun! Lots of great drums to try. Some of us even used drumsticks on plastic buckets! Please consider joining us. No experience or drum required. It's always the second Sunday of the month (except for Easter), starting at 12:30 in the Merrifield Room. We'll guarantee you'll have a few laughs and a lot of fun.

# Our Journey Together Continues!

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Our time with each other has been life-giving and informative. And now, it continues. All are welcome to join us as we gather with our Muslim brothers and sisters at the Islamic Center on Friday, March 27th at 6:00pm for a great meal while Imam Chaudhry and the Rev. Karen Lewis talk about the seasons of Ramadan and Lent. What is Ramadan? Why do they fast from dawn to dusk? What other practices are the norm during Ramadan? How does it compare to Lent? What is Lent, exactly? Is Lent fasting mandatory? And if not, why not? <u>Ladies, please bring a scarf to cover your head if you plan to attend worship.</u>

When we last gathered at St. Paul's in November 2019, the group suggested we continued with learning more about each other's faith practices and traditions! Well, we heard you! We will gather at St. Paul's on **Sunday**, **April 5th following the 10:00am** service for food

and conversation about Mary and Jesus. How do our respective traditions view these two people? Who is Jesus to a Muslim? How does our understanding of Mary, the mother of Jesus, differ? How is it alike? This is a great way to enter Holy Week.

We ask that you sign up if you are attending each event so that we can adequately prepare for enough food.

And, due to public demand, we are bringing back Imam Chaudhry to give a lecture on "What is Jihad?" on **June 7th at 6:3opm**. His last lecture on Sharia Law was eye-opening and extremely helpful in developing an understanding of many Islamic traditions and views.

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Services for Holy Week are as follows:

♣ Palm Sunday: Blessing of the Palms and Holy Communion

8:00 & 10:00am

₱ Maundy Thursday: Dinner with CUMC at 6:00pm

Service at St. Paul's include Holy Communion with stripping of the

Altar and procession to Altar of Repose

♣ Good Friday: Noon service including Holy Communion from Reserve

7:00pm service of readings and music

₱ Easter Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion

Easter Breakfast: 8:30 – 9:45am

#### The Good Friday Offering

#### **News and Background Information**

The Good Friday Offering (GFO) is an initiative of the Office of the Presiding Bishop which dates to 1922 when, in the aftermath of World War I, the Episcopal Church sought to create new relationships with and among the Christians of the Middle East. From these initial efforts which focused on a combination of relief work and the improvement of ecumenical and Anglican relations, the Good Friday Offering was created. The first church-wide offering was received in 1923.

The tradition has been that the Presiding Bishop writes a letter to the bishops and parishes of the Church seeking support for raising funds in support of the ministry of the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

#### How much has the Good Friday Offering raised in recent years?

Recent GFO allocations to the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, 2013-2018:

2013	266,179.18
2014	377,663.51
2015	350,446.38
2016	365,229.16
2017	414,310.39
2018	437,455.79

#### Is any money held over from year to year?

No, all funds are dispersed each year.

#### How else is the Episcopal Church involved in the Middle East?

- The Episcopal Church is involved in placing mission staff, both short and long term, younger and older in the following locations at the present time:
  - o Jerusalem
  - o Oman
  - o The United Arab Emirates
  - o Qatar
  - o Bahrain

- Several organizations beyond the Good Friday
   Offering involve many Episcopalians supporting
   ministry throughout the Province of Jerusalem
   and the Middle East, including:
  - o Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)
  - o The United Thank Offering (UTO)
  - o The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations (OGR)
  - o American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)
  - o Stand with Iraqi Christians (SWIC)
  - o Jerusalem Peacebuilders
  - o Kids4Peace

Submitted by, The Rev. Canon Robert D. Edmunds, Middle East Partnership Officer

# March

# Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FOOD BANK SUNDAY NOISY OFFERING 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary 11:30 AM Confirmation Class - VanAtta Room	The Rev. Karen Lewis Away 6:15 PM Men of Orpheus - Choir Room	3 No Noon Service The Rev. Karen Lewis Away	<b>4</b> The Rev. Karen Lewis Away	5 The Rev. Karen Lewis Away 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	6 OFFICE CLOSED The Rev. Karen Lewis Away	7 The Rev. Karen Lewis Away 8:00 AM EDOMI Vestry Days
8 Baptism Anniversary Celebration Daylight Savings Begins - Spring Forward The Rev. Karen Lewis Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary 12:30 PM Project Laugh & Play - Merrifield Room	The Rev. Karen Lewis Away 6:15 PM Men of Orpheus - Choir Room	10 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - Chapel	11 12:00 PM Book Study - VanAtta Room 6:00 PM Lenten Study & Dinner w/Karen+	9:00 AM De Lau annual inspection 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	0FFICE CLOSED	14
15	16 12:00 PM Facilities Ministry Team Meeting - VanAtta 6:15 PM Men of Orpheus - Choir Room	17 Feast of St. Patrick	18 12:00 PM Book Study - VanAtta Room 6:00 PM Lenten Study & Dinner w/Karen+	The Rev. Lewis @ Diocese in a.m. 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 10:00 AM Walilko Private Party - Merrifield Room
22	23 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm - Hill Room 6:15 PM Men of Orpheus - Choir Room	24	25 FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION 11:30 AM St. Paul's Women's Luncheon - Coral Gables 12:00 PM Book Study - VanAtta Room 6:00 PM Lenten Study & Dinner w/Karen+	26 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	27 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 PM St. Paul's @ Islamic Center- Ramadan/Lent	28 11:30 AM Destination Imagination Lunch - Merrifield Room
<b>29</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Bible Study - VanAtta Room	30 6:15 PM Men of Orpheus - Choir Room	31	1 12:00 PM Book Study - VanAtta Room 6:00 PM Lenten Study & Dinner w/Karen+	2 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 9:00 AM Altar Guild Palms - Youth Classroom

St. Paul's News March 2020

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 218 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933

# ST. PAUL'S STAFF

Rector

The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Minister of Music

Dr. Timothy Flynn

**Parish Administrator** 

Theresa Milne

Interim Sexton Christopher Hart **Christian Formation Director** 

Jackie Womble

**Nursery Attendant** 

Ciera Wilson

**SPN Editor** 

Hillary Walilko

Vestry

Maria Wawro Sr. Warden Sue LeDuc Jr. Warden Jack Baker

Jane Bryce Michael Hart Jeff Irwin

Jen Humphries **Bob Merriman** Dave Parks Libby Richardson Margaret Schulte Gloria Sutton