

# *Saint Paul's Messenger*

October 2020



*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*

*Established 1893*

726 Sixth Street, Brookings SD

[www.Stpaulsbrookings.com](http://www.Stpaulsbrookings.com).

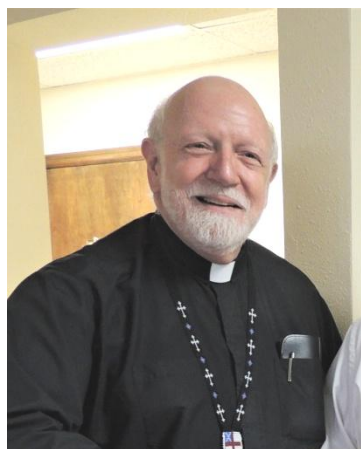
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Messenger Editor, Chuck Berry

## **Rector's Report from Fr Larry Ort**

I was not shocked to wake up and see a world of white this morning, but only because I saw it in the middle of the night! It is too early to be running the snow-blower! Let's hope for some more good weather later in the month.



About ten days ago I talked with a representative of the Salvation Army about their need for winter coats – they needed 1600 coats this year. This is double what was needed last year and is no doubt a reflection of the financial hardships created by Covid-19. We discussed this need at last night's Vestry meeting and agreed to contribute \$1000. When Erika Klein delivered the check, a member of the staff said, "Oh my gosh! If ever there was a day that we needed donations immediately, it's today! Thank you SO much!" What wonderful feedback! What a blessing! As we move into November, we will look at remaining monies to be distributed and consider gifts to other organizations. Thanks to you, and to

those who have left legacies, for making this ministry possible.

Bob and Marsha Klein, Judy, and I attended Diocesan Convention on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Convention delegates and clergy met in five different locations throughout the Diocese and were connected via Zoom. As I earlier forwarded Bishop Jonathan's address, there is not much more to say. We passed the budget, voted on some minor changes to the canons, and passed a few courtesy resolutions.

A few days ago, Judy and I took a couple of days off and visited Scott and Holly (Huiskens) Moseley at Camp Crook (23 miles west of Buffalo). Some of you know Holly from when she worked at the Cathedral or at The Episcopal Campground in the Black Hills. We had a great time! It was our first time in the far northwest corner of the state. On our way back, we drove through the Badlands and checked out the bighorn sheep herd. Scott and I had some long conversations about books we are reading and discussed some writers and writings we have shared over the years. We also shared a lot of laughter. The best thing we shared was our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration! Judy and I are so thankful for these years. I have always said Judy is a special touch of God's grace in my life. I am

hoping and praying that we have several more good years. It was good to get away, but I found myself wanting more vacation. With Covid-19, we have not felt that it is safe to travel.



Speaking of Covid-19, Bruce and Aric Hovelson are currently recovering. I am not aware of any other members of our congregation who have contracted the disease. Give thanks for their recovery thus far and please keep Bruce, Aric, and their family in your prayers. And stay safe – wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands frequently. In times of pandemic, these are acts of love.

We are going to slowly move toward reopening the church for Sunday morning services. Feel free to come if you feel that it is safe to do so, but please practice the CDC guidelines. We will block off certain pews so as to maintain at least a six-foot separation. Always wear your mask; I will do so when distributing communion. Close family units may sit together. Individuals should maintain separation. Masks and hand sanitizer are available at the back of the church. There will be no coffee hour and no singing.

In the last issue of the Messenger I invited people to join a book study of Rabbi Jonathan Sack's *Morality*. Thus far I have only heard from one person. In that Advent is rapidly approaching, I have decided, and the vestry has concurred, it would be best to hold off until after the first of the year to permit us to engage in an advent study based on The Way of Love. I have reviewed the materials – they look good. They are suitable for families as well as our community of faith.

In closing, I ask that you pray for our country and the upcoming election. If power is to be transferred, may it be a peaceful transfer. If anyone needs transportation for voting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings, Fr. Larry

## But Emily, we're in South Dakota!

*Some keep the Sabbath going to church,  
I keep it staying at home,  
With a bobolink for a chorister  
And an orchard for a dome*

E. Dickinson

## Dorothy Kratochvil RIP

Long-time St Paul's member, first female lay reader and a member of the vestry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church,



Kratochvil, Don & Dorothy

## Sr Warden Lynn Hublou's Message

With fall here, it's hard to think we won't all be reconvening at St. Paul's with the usual start-up activities—soup suppers, pancake breakfasts, Church School and Youth Group to name a

few. I always felt that those kinds of things so beautifully countered the loss of summer. We all know that everything is very different today than a year ago at this time, or even six months ago. The sense of loss is difficult, and that is without considering the loss of members of our congregation, whose absence we feel deeply in our hearts.



As we learn to adapt to our circumstances, though, hope rises like a phoenix! We now know more about the coronavirus and how to safely conduct our daily affairs. It was like a breath of fresh air to recently meet in person with the all the church school and youth group leaders in Thorburn Hall. It felt like being at home. Each of us sat at a separate table, each of us wore a mask, and we all, I'm quite certain, relished in that time together.

I have prayed a lot since the advent of this insidious virus and its horrific effects—thousands and thousands of deaths, lingering symptoms, disruption of our lives, loss of employment for so many millions, loss of contact with others, hunger—it's often just too much to understand or comprehend. Prayer helps me, and I'm certain that God will answer our prayers. In answer to one prayer, someday all of us will be sitting together in Thorburn Hall relishing our time together. I can just taste those soups and blueberry pancakes already.



Barb, Mary Lou and Lynette enjoying a gathering in Thorburn Hall

## Rebuilding South Sudan Through Education, Rector's Discretionary Fund, and Church Budget

Letter from Fr Larry

Dear Friends:

We usually take up a special offering on the first and fourth (last) Sunday of the month for these two funds. Since we have been meeting virtually, that has not happened.



We recently received a thank-you letter from Myrna Stanley, Treasurer of Rebuilding South Sudan through Education in which she thanked us for a donation of \$102.00.

Permit me to share her words:

Your donation could not have come at a better time. Our fundraising efforts have, of course, been curtailed by the covid-19 pandemic. Since this has also affected the U. N. and other world food programs as well as medical support, the need for supplemental food and medical access has increased for our South Sudanese families remaining in refugee camps in Uganda and Kenya. The border closures and current severe flooding in South Sudan have caused the restriction of movement and have left few options for those wanting to return to Pajut in South Sudan.

As you can understand, our donors are especially critical during these challenging times our world is experiencing. Thank you for your faithful generosity and compassion. Please keep our families in your prayers.

I encourage you, if possible, to make a special contribution to these funds. Please mail a check with your designation on the memo line to Robert Klein, 929 Yosemite Lane, Brookings, SD 57006.

## Vestry Minutes of Oct. 19

All Vestry members were present. The meeting was begun as usual with Lectio Divina Matthew 22.34-46 [scriptural reading, meditation and prayer].





**Approval of Minutes:** The Sept. 21 Minutes were accepted in a motion made by Carol Ann Klug (2<sup>nd</sup>, Lynn Hublou).

- \* Bishop Folts' Visitation is scheduled for January 10. He will celebrate Mass and meet with the Vestry.
- \* Fr. Larry has written thank-you notes for memorial money received in memory of Jean Lacher and Coral Bonnemann.
- \* After some discussion, Fr. Larry decided to postpone the book study on Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' *Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times?*; instead, he will obtain Advent materials for a study group to promote more of a spirit of community during Advent.
- \* The Discretionary Fund's opening balance was \$774.07. Deposits brought the current balance to \$2472.07.

#### **Senior Warden's Report (Lynn Hublou):**

- \* Lynn reported that the South Dakota Day of Giving is Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be an agenda item for November.
- \* Church School: The high school group met Oct. 7 for bocce and fellowship. The grade school group will begin on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> via Zoom.

#### **Junior Warden's Report (Lee Krachtovil):**

- \* The buffet that was in the church hall has been taken to Threads of Memories, and Patty will reimburse the church when it sells.
- \* Caulking/Repainting of the west windows (sanctuary) has been deferred to 2021 due to newly-seeded 6<sup>th</sup> Street.



#### **Treasurer's Report (Bob Klein):**

- \* The treasurer's report was accepted in a motion made by Lynn H. (2<sup>nd</sup>, Janet G.).



#### **Old Business:**

- \* The \$1000 in memorial money for Janet Gritzner's sister, Frances

Bean, is set aside for landscaping in conjunction with the April Brooks Memorial Garden. Fr. Larry and Lee are going to visit with the folks at DISC-Macon Masonry to see about getting a second bid. There was also discussion of a city sightline requirement that will affect the height of the decorative fence. The matter was tabled until the November meeting.

- \* Regarding the Fishback offer of new trees on 6<sup>th</sup> St., Lee visited with Colin at Norm's about the tree varieties available. Lee would recommend the sugar maple and the golden linden (this tree is not in stock, so would be deferred until spring).

#### **New Business:**

- \* The Salvation Army is in need of 3XL coats (men's and women's); they would also like St. Paul's to provide bell ringers at Lewis Drug during the holiday season. In a motion made by Lynn H. (2<sup>nd</sup>, Janet G.), the Vestry approved donating \$500 from the Rector's discretionary fund, matched by \$500 from our general giving fund for the Salvation Army coat drive. Bob K. has cut a check to be delivered in person to the Salvation Army.
- \* Fr. Larry brought up the possibility of opening the church up to more people, blocking off pews and sections to accommodate more parishioners. We will continue to Zoom the service as well.
- \* Fr. Larry will work on composing a Stewardship letter that emphasizes hope and optimism for 2021. While pledges are, for the most part, keeping up, the special collections are hurting a bit.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on November 16 at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Klein, Clerk

#### **St. Paul's Establishes Endowment Fund**

At the August 10<sup>th</sup> Vestry Meeting the Vestry approved the establishment of an endowment fund. Rather than publish the entire policy in the Messenger, Below are pertinent

paragraphs. Fr Larry has copies of the entire document.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this parish, through action of its Vestry, establishes THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BROOKINGS, S.D. (hereinafter, Endowment Fund), which shall be managed as a "true endowment fund."

DEFINITION: A true endowment fund consists of gifts or bequests wherein the donor expresses a desire that the funds be held in perpetuity. Interest monies may be expended as per policy. In contrast, a quasi-endowment consists of gifts or bequests such as an unrestricted bequest, money from the sale of property, or excess cash.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purpose of the Endowment Fund is to promote the long-term security and viability of St. Paul's. As a general rule, interest monies from the Endowment Fund will be used to engage in mission outreach and ministry which the parish would otherwise be unable to afford.

## Church School and Youth Group

Youth Group leaders are Patty Kratochvil (preschool-grade 1), Marsha Klein and Shannon Malmberg (grades 2-5), and Jen Lacher-Starace and Lynn Hublou (Youth Group, 6th grade on up).

The age groups for the two younger groups are flexible, so don't feel as though your child is locked in to a specific group. Youth Group, however, does start at grade six. The curriculum we use for Youth Group is designed for young people on the cusp of adolescence and older, hence the name, "Journey to Adulthood."

Because of the circumstances with the coronavirus, we decided that in-person meetings with the younger groups would not be possible. Youth Group, if numbers and courage permit, may at some point meet in Thorburn Hall with masks and social distancing in place.

Meetings will be on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, starting on

Wednesday, October 7 at 5:15 p.m. through Zoom.

If you have children of Church School and/or Youth Group age, please let that teacher know. We want to include all the kids we can to keep our St. Paul's community together. We're looking forward to the start-up!

### News About St Paul's News

*The Messenger*: electronically mailed to 85 addresses; 10 snail mails

#### **Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Saintpaulsbrookings>  
St Paul's Congregation "facebook group" is just for members for fun  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/564227754206918/?ref=share>

#### **Internet Website:**

[www.Stpaulsbrookings.com](http://www.Stpaulsbrookings.com).



### **October Birthdays**

Shirley Christiansen, John Whalen, Ismael Pallares, Kevin Bogue, Elsie Carruthers, Paul Gillespie, Marsha Klein, Pete Peterson

### **November Birthdays**

Emily Braun, Jack Woodard, Carolann Klug, Jessica Laidlaw, Aricia Hovelson, Madison Vanduch, Andrew Trump

### **October-November Anniversaries**

Don and Amanda Norgaard, Kenric and Shannon Malmberg, Fr. Larry and Judy Ort, John and Lynette Taylor, Chuck and Sara Woodard, Ismael and Bess Pallares

## St Paul's during Quarantine-time

**Church services in person:** OPEN with seating separation, modifications in service, and other safety features

### **Church services on line**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83255248573?pwd=NXcweGIRSGxaUklRTXBqVFV0cUJ1Zz09>

OR Meeting ID: 832 5524 8573, Passcode: 726

**Pledges:** - use mail or in person

**Compline:** Wednesdays, 7:30; zoom

## Gov Noem's Reply (by Chuck Berry)

Blame it on *The Messenger* – well actually blame it on something I wrote in the *Messenger* [St Paul's isn't culpable], and the Governor replied. Here's the story.

The July issue of the *Messenger* had a photo of fireworks over Mt Rushmore and a brief note about Gov Noem's Speakout Column in the *Brookings Register*. In her column she wrote about South Dakota's commitment to the American ideal of freedom, and about "trusting our citizens to exercise their personal responsibility to do what's best for themselves and their loved ones."



I opined. I wrote that I thought that there was something missing from her message. Her ending seemed to stop short of concern for our neighbors and community. I wrote "I'm probably being picky, but perhaps she could have mentioned "the golden rule" (Matt 7:12) and included something about living "in community."

Seemingly in response to my comment, Gov Noem tried again in another Speakout Column (*Register*, Sept 28, p 4). At that time, South Dakota's Covid statistics were getting bad. We were second highest in the Nation in new cases per capita (several hundred new cases each day is a big deal in our small population state, and as of this writing, it is worse by 37% over Sept).

In her updated comments in the *Register*, the Governor widened the definition of "our personal responsibility" to include my idea about neighbors and communities, and, she threw in a little Bible talk. She wrote:

"It's OK to be scared, worried, or fed up. But at the same time, we can also pour ourselves into our families, our neighbors and our communities. My hope is that we will find a way to allow it (the pandemic) to make the bonds of community stronger. To remind us of what is important in life. To remind us of three things: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love."

Of course, you recognize the last line of the governor's message. Ruth Alexander had the words included on our stained glass window. The words are found in 1 Corinthians 13:13.



## A WORD TO THE CHURCH (by PB Michael B. Curry)

"A Word?" How about 2,839 words (thanks word-count). When Fr Larry directed us to this PB Curry address:

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/pressreleases/pr/esiding-bishop-currys-word-to-the-church-what-did-jesus-do/>.

I looked at the length of Curry's address and faltered, but then soldered on to read the address titled "What Jesus did." I'm glad I read it because there was a lot about our political and cultural problems, and about voting.

But PB Curry kept the most interesting news (my opinion) to the end. It was about the guy who punched a protester at a Trump rally in 2016. The puncher got a 12-month suspended sentence for assault. But, what happened after that was the story – not enough space in the *Messenger* so you will have to go to the web site above and read it yourself.

For the *Messenger*, I have picked out a few quotes from PB Curry's message titled "What did Jesus do?"



“... summoning the Spirit to help us apply it to our lives and to our times may mean the difference between the church simply being another religious institution that exists for its own sake and the church being a Jesus movement that courageously follows the way of Jesus and his love, not for its sake, but **for the sake of the world.**”

“The Episcopal Church does not endorse, support, or oppose political candidates for elective office. This does not prohibit churches from engaging in voter education, voter registration, helping people

Voting is an act of moral agency

get to the polls to vote, or even advocating for issues of **public policy reflective of the tenants** of our faith.”

“...there are good and faithful followers of Jesus Christ who are Episcopalian. Some are Republican, some are Democrat, some are independents, some liberal, some centrist, some conservative. And just as we must respect the right of every citizen to cast his or her own vote according to the dictates of their conscience, so we must do so in the church.”

**“What does voting have to do with the Gospel?** ... with being a Christian? An election for public office is not a popularity contest between two or more people. It's a contest of ideas about how to shape the future of a community, nation and maybe even a world. It's a contest, a debate, a discernment of moral values and their relationship to public policy.”

[voting] “...is an act of moral discernment and decision. It is how a community or a nation decides how the **moral values** that it holds and shares shape public policy and the lives of people.”

“In the 13th chapter of Romans, he speaks about the role of government. And then he quickly shifts from speaking about the role of government to the role of the citizen. And then the role of the Christian, who is a disciple in the empire. He says, “You have to pay taxes to whom taxes are due, and an **honor to whom honor is due.**”

“With grace to aid and conscience to guide, each of us must discern and decide what love of neighbor looks like in our lives, in our actions, in our personal relationships....”

***Partisan neutrality is not the same as moral neutrality.***

“There are no quick fixes because the wounds are so deep, but we need not feel enslaved by fate. **We are not people of fate. We are people of faith.**”



# *The Messenger*

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

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