

# Saint Paul's Messenger

March 2021



*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/Saintpaulsbrookings>  
605-692-2617

*Established 1893*

Messenger Editor, Chuck Berry

## Rector's Report from Fr Larry Ort

A year ago, we were joyously anticipating the Easter celebration and the children's Easter Egg Hunt. Then everything changed due to the Covid-19 virus. Services were suspended for a month, then we began operating via Zoom. We are once again approaching Palm Sunday and Easter week.



As many members of our congregation have received the Covid-19 vaccine, we are slowly and cautiously moving to reopen some things. The CDC guidelines (3.08.21) stipulate "people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19  $\geq$  2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or  $\geq$  2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Jansen)." They further stipulate that fully vaccinated people can "visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing

masks or physical distancing." Nonetheless, it is recommended that fully vaccinated people should continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing when in public settings or when visiting with unvaccinated people and avoid medium and large-sized in person gatherings.

With this in mind, we encourage you to attend services if you are fully vaccinated, but request that you continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing. We are also looking into incorporating music into the services while holding off on singing hymns. Long-term we hope to broadcast services on Facebook Live, but that will require some upgrading of equipment.

We will have Easter week services as follows (both live and Zoom);

Palm Sunday	March 28th	10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 PM
	All-night vigil following	
Good Friday	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	12:15 PM
	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	at 5:00 PM
Holy Sat. Easter Vigil	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:00 PM
Easter Holy Eucharist	April 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Holy Saturday are commonly referred to as the Triduum (Three Days). These days constitute one extended service. I encourage you to participate in all three services to experience the full meaning and blessing of Easter. May you celebrate a Holy Easter!

I am also pleased to announce that we are planning to begin confirmation classes shortly after Easter with confirmation taking place during the bishop's visit in January 2022.

Many of you may know Lydia Simmons from Calvary Cathedral through TEC or Convention. Lydia recently graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary, has passed her general ordination examination, and will be ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Jonathan Folts on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at Calvary Cathedral. You may attend the service virtually at <https://youtube.com/calvarycathedral>.

Over the past week or so, I have been working on records. As some of you may recall, we lost many records when the rectory flooded late 2013. During her years at St. Paul's, Jean Lacher maintained an amazing set of records which were transferred to the Thorburn Fellowship Hall. The surviving records from the rectory have been moved to Thorburn and I am now sorting and combining records. Folks from the Anniversary history project – you are hereby forewarned that you will be receiving a stack of historical documents for our scrapbooks.



Tables in Thorburn Hall filled with historical documents from Rectory Storage and Lacher barn.

Wedding, funeral, and baptismal service bulletins abound. The process has served to recall many fond memories of working with Jean! At some point, we must share some of these treasures with the congregation!

May you be blessed this Easter as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Fr. Larry

## St. Paul's Vestry Minutes: March 15

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February 15, 2021, minutes were approved in a motion made by Carol Ann Klug



Carol Ann Kluge, Vestry member who shows up with cats at the Blessing of the Animals, and invites us to her Halloween House.

**Rector's Report (Fr. Larry Ort):** Fr. Larry has begun to sort through the documents preserved by Jean Lacher. He has brought over 15 totes of records from the Rectory and is comparing documents, looking to eliminate duplicates. He found some items in the Rectory cistern that he would like to donate to Habitat for Humanity.

Lee will follow up on that.

- Fr. Larry made a presentation to the Transfiguration Fellowship, a group of Orthodox Christians.
- Chris Corbin asked Fr. Larry to supervise the ordination of Mike Reade (Belle Fourche), whom he met with via Zoom. He submitted the evaluation and summary evaluation for Lydia Simmons' Ordination Exam, and has been asked to supervise the ordination process of Michael Mornard (Huron).
- The On Morality group (Rabbi Jonathan Sach's book) has met and will meet again on March 23. Fr. Larry and Judy are doing some house-hunting to find something without as many stairs.
- Fr. Larry intends to organize confirmation classes after Easter.

- The Discretionary Expenses opening balance was \$1432.73. There were no expenditures, and a deposit of \$500 brought the balance to \$1932.73.

**Senior Warden’s Report (Lynn Hublou):** Lynn brought up the Summer Burgers and Brats gathering on the patio and the Vestry agreed that we should wait until June when most are vaccinated.



**Junior Warden’s Report (Lee Kratochvil):** Lee will get bids to refinish the sanctuary floor. Also discussed was the need to repaint the interior of the church. Fr. Larry mentioned renting scaffolding to facilitate that. Lee suggested that we hire out lawn treatment for the Church (mentioned Turfgard) and he will get some prices to present to the Vestry.



**Treasurer’s Report (Bob Klein):** Bob paid \$60 for a software update and \$16 a month for Zoom licensing, for which he was reimbursed. The Treasurer’s Report was accepted in a motion made by Janet Gritzner (2<sup>nd</sup>, Carol Ann K.).



**Old Business:** The Congregational Vitality Assessment’s deadline is March 18.

**New Business:** The Vestry discussed Easter services, including the suggestion of organ music (Fr. Larry will contact Xuan Kuang to see if she is available) but no singing.

- An outdoor coffee hour was discussed.
- Fr. Larry will follow up on ideas to upgrade our audio-visual equipment using memorial money. He will visit with Jay VanDuch (photo) to get ideas on improving our Zoom broadcasts (cameras, microphones, etc.). Lynn H. mentioned that Calvary uses



Facebook Live (a possible contact there is David Trefz). Lee suggested we get a professional and get a bid.

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



## Creation Justice Lenten Resource

(by Natural Cathedral Committee)



At the beginning of Lent, Fr Larry suggested a Lenten resource from Creation Justice Ministries, a group that encourages congregations to protect and restore God's creation. The Lenten resource is an action guide recommending small personal actions for each day in Lent. For example, for March 28 they recommend reading

[Voluntary Simplicity: Cool Lifestyle for a Hot Planet - Duane Elgin.](#)

On the Lenten list is...

- March 22: learn about World Water Day
- March 23: your water foot print
- March 24: ways to reduce water use
- March 25: reusable water bottle (not plastic)
- March 26: time to plan your garden
- March 27: pick up litter

Creation Justice Ministries is just one resource for weekly and daily recommendations on “what one person can do” to Care for Creation.

[http://www.creationjustice.org/blog/52-ways-to-care-for-creation.](http://www.creationjustice.org/blog/52-ways-to-care-for-creation)

In Lent, we reflect on Christ’s ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down, and examine our internal spiritual lives as well as the way we live out our Christian faith in the world. Our faith teaches us that humans were put on this earth with the responsibility to be stewards.

We also know our individual as well as collective U.S. lifestyles have led to serious harm to God’s good creation. The Lenten reflection and action guide will help individuals take time to learn, reflect, repent, ask God for forgiveness, and take concrete steps to change course. Download the Lenten Resource at <https://creationjustice.salsalabs.org/2021LentResource/index.html>.

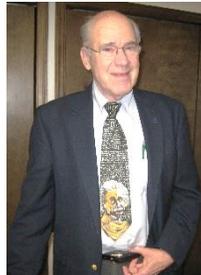
**Zoom After-Church Conversations**

When you hang around the internet zoom church after Fr Larry says “Amen” you will be part of a wide-ranging news broadcast from the dozen or so families attending.

There are two dominant themes. First, everyone wants to compare the weather and covid status between Sound Dakota and Florida. Peggy Miller (photo right) is the Florida reporter – a St Paul’s member stuck in Florida by covid restrictions.



Second, there are health issues in the congregation that are updated. For example, Bob Lacher is recovering from a shoulder operation, as is Kelly Clever.



Bob’s photo shows him wearing his goofy Einstein tie that he wears on Pi Day (it’s a math holiday in case you don’t know) . Kelly’s photo shows her before arm sling.



**Congregation Assessment**

It takes about 10 minutes to check boxes that express your opinion about various conditions

and attitudes in the Parish. There are 10 subsections with about 6 questions in each.

Can you answer the first question – Does St Paul’s have a vision statement, or a mission statement? Hint: look at the banner of the first page of this newsletter.

Other subsections are:

1. Vision, Mission, and Discernment;
2. Lay Engagement and Empowerment;
3. Context Awareness and inclusion;
4. Change Readiness;
5. Dealing with Differences;
6. Spiritual Life and Worship;
7. Formation, Education, and Training;
8. Outreach;
9. Leadership and Organization; and
10. Stewardship.



***March-April Anniversaries***

Al and Lynn Hublou, Ryan and Emily Braun

***March Birthdays***

Aaron Hovelson, Don Norgaard, Abby Clever, Teadon Seaboy, Theresa Kratochvil, Andrea Woodard, Jenifer Lacher Starace, Ken Tjaden, Hay Lee Hovelson, Ben Taylor Sue Hoffman, George Gehant, Lynn Hublou.

***April Birthdays***

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.



Arnie & Cindy Appelt; St Paul’s folks found at Wednesday Service

## 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** link for

Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83255248573?pwd=\\_NXcweGIRSGxaUklRTXBqVFV0cUJ1Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83255248573?pwd=_NXcweGIRSGxaUklRTXBqVFV0cUJ1Zz09)

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

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



One way that St Paul's brings the Creation Care message into the church service is the

use of Eco-Palms on Palm Sunday. Yes, Eco-Palms have been ordered again this year, courtesy of the Natural Cathedral Committee.

You know the story – the palms are called “Eco-Palms” because they are harvested by sustainable forestry practices by small, fair-trade companies that put some of their earnings back into community schools and health. [the alternative is industrial palm harvesting that does not consider people or ecology]



The University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) is working together with the Rainforest Alliance TREES program and Smartwood to certify palms harvested from the forests of Mexico and Guatemala for sale to Christian congregations in the United States and Europe.”

The Eco-Palms at St Paul's send the message that we are doing our small part for the

Creation, while we learn about one of the natural resources (forests) that provide many services to us. Forests provide construction material and paper, but forests also provide many FREE ecological services like controlling soil erosion, providing wildlife habitat, and more recently functioning as the “big green sponge” reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

So how are we doing in our stewardship of this gift. Most satellite surveys show that the forests are declining, now covering about 30% of the Earth's surface (50% was maximum). In recent decades, reforestation projects and conservation has slowed the decline, but there are



Monarch visiting cone flowers in a Lake Campbell flower garden; this butterfly is “necturing” on its way to over-winter in Mexico.

lots of solid, scientific surveys that show the net decline (e.g., The 2020 FAO State of the World's Forests Report, <http://www.fao.org/state-of-forests/en/>.)

There are lots and lots of facts – even true facts. For example, the rate of forest loss in Mexico is estimated at 600,000 to 2.5 million acres per year. Folks who follow the fate of the Monarch Butterfly's migration hear that their over-winter, roosting forests in Mexico are being cut. We're trying to grow more milk-weed in the US to help them during their migration, but another key to their survival is the roosting habitat in Mexico - the butterfly in its international migration reminds us of our ecological and political connections with other countries, just as Eco-palms do.

In studying the status of forests, I recall the following statistic because my neighbors are building a new deck and I have been dumpster diving. On average, one-sixth of the lumber delivered to a home-building worksite is not used and is taken to the dump. Whoops – I got going on forest conservation. Sorry for the lecture – the Eco-Palms made me do it.

## Earth Day Sunday April 18

The secular Earth Day has been going on since 1970. Religion got involved with Earth Day activities later, when scientists said the cause of environmental degradation was religion, and its narrow interpretation of the word “dominion” in Genesis 1. After some introspection, religious leaders concluded that man’s relation with the Creation had not been a theme in church teachings. Some said “You can find the word “dominion” in the Bible, but not the word “stewardship.” But religious leaders also began to think that sinful materialism and a profligate lifestyle were contributing to environmental problems. “When faced with abundance, should we consume abundantly?”



St Paul’s will hold an Earth Day Sunday event on April 18th. The purpose will be to remind ourselves of our stewardship responsibilities in God’s Garden.

It is important to find ways to include creation in our regular readings and hymns if we are to reflect its prominence in Scripture itself.



Our “International Woman of Mystery” visited recently from Belgium. When asked about the food there, she responded “waffles.”



**Above:** Earth Balloons hang above the snack table after church on Earth Day Sunday 2017.

**Below:** Barbie Hovelson and Grandkids enjoy the Earth balloons on Earth Day Sunday, 2016.



Fr Larry always includes an Earth Day message during church service, and even devoted his *Brookings Register* (4/19/18) space to Creation Care. He wrote about the Book of Job as his favorite Creation message. Okay, but Psalm 104 is a biggie also.

## PB Curry's Address (by Chuck Berry)



Fr Larry wrote “I know that many of you enjoy Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's sermons. I highly recommend this one: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/episcopal-church-house-of-bishops-sermon-from-the-presiding-bishop-2/> .”

I have heard Curry preach a couple of times and knew that if I tuned in, I'd be entertained by his dynamic speech as well as learn something new. I did.

Curry, as everyone does these days, began with a summary the difficult year 2020. He thanks his Bishops for their service, but gives them marching orders for the future - “Now we go to our work, continuing the work of dismantling racism. Of engaging the demons, the powers of principalities, and the realities in our social, corporate, political, and economic world, and in our church and our personal lives.”

**Editor's note:** I was thinking of the dominion of economics as it applies to the Creation, but hey, I'm narrow minded, and I was remembering the 60's poem

*With laissez-faire and price atomic  
Ecology's Uneconomic  
But with another kind of logic  
Economy is Unecologic.*

Back to Currey's address - he recalled the racism that emerged in our society in 2020, and painted the insurrection at the Capitol as an unholy alliance of white supremacy and Christian nationalism seeking to overthrow the possibility that this nation might truly be *e pluribus unum*, from many diverse peoples, one.

Then Curry got tough on religion and past and present religious thoughts on racism. He recalled the history of Christian thoughts on slavery (yes, there were pro-slavery Christians). He digs into Anglican history and finds the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel that implored the leadership of England to find a way to make it possible to baptize slaves without altering their civil condition.

He said that as head of the church, most of his job is to be the church's chief evangelism officer: to help the church, to help us all claim the high calling as followers of Jesus of Nazareth. He said that he didn't realize that the most difficult work would be to re-evangelize Christianity itself from religion in the service of the empire. Religion in service of self. Religion in service of race, religion, in service of class; religion in service of anything other than God and Jesus in his way of love. That may well be our most important work and may well be the seed of a new reformation, in the very heart of Christianity itself.

As Curry usually does, he concluded with a folksy story about a grandmother, a former slave, who didn't like the Bible teachings of “slaves minding their masters” (e.g, 1 Peter 2:18) but she did like First Corinthians 13: “*If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love, I'm a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal . . . Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.*”

We see the faith, hope, and love window every Sunday as we exit our sanctuary.

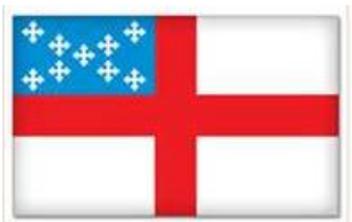


# *The Messenger*

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

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726 Sixth Street,  
Brookings SD 57006