

# ***The Good News***

May, 2020

## ***Christ Episcopal Church***

### ***Keeping our Faith Alive***



This has been a difficult Easter. The Church is empty. The lights and heat are off. There were no Easter flowers in the Church. No festive decorations and the kids are not carrying in the Alleluia crosses, ringing their bells and singing alleluia as in previous years. Having our services via ZOOM is not the same as being together in church. It is understandable that some find they cannot attend, but know that we are all one family no matter where we are. We started the ZOOM services on Friday March 27 at 9am with morning prayer with about 10 people participating. At our main Sunday service at 9am we normally have 30 to 35 screens with 40 to 50 people watching. We had all the normal Holy Week



services and for Mundy Thursday we shared a meal which was very moving. Likewise Good Friday and the Easter Vigil had powerful liturgies even though not in the Church were also very moving. Pam and I normally set out table for the service just like at the Church with flowers, a candle and a cross. The Sunday coffee hour after the Church has become quite a social time where everyone can catch up with each other. It gives us all a break from this social distancing. Fr. Jean has urged us to call one another to touch basis and to comfort and encourage each other. We have also been

receiving cards from parishioners which cheer up our days. For those that would like help logging into the Zoom services you may call Mark Andersen, Greg Thompson or Fr. Jean. They can answer questions or even do a practice session so you will be ready to join us on Sunday morning. The link for the services can be found on the Church Web Page or on the weekly email containing the bulletin.

## A Mother's Day Card



To All Women

You are the true image of the Good Shepherd. May is a special month. It is special because it is the month in which we celebrate Mother's Day and the month where we start with the Gospel where Jesus speaks to us about the Good Shepherd.

I'd like to take this time to congratulate all women who care for a loved one, and minister in the image of the Shepherd, especially today, the ones who are mothers, the ones who are expecting, and the ones who are not mothers. Sometimes we forget important moments, people in our lives, and how God is acting in today's world.

Let us be transformed this month with a new season in our Lives, a rebirth, a season that is marked by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this new season, after the long period of winter, the rains begin, the fields return to their cheerful green color, the farmers prepare the land for sowing, and then the harvest. When we look around our neighborhood, even though we are living in a time of social distancing due to COVID-19, some of our neighbors are starting to clean their yards and starting preparations for the garden.

The Gospel we have read to begin the month of May, in which we celebrate Mother's Day, speaks to us about the Good shepherd. Mothers, poor or rich, sick or healthy, alone or in any kind of situation; I want to congratulate them for being who they are.

This month let us make Jesus the guide, the passage, the gate that gives access to a better world. Behind this gate, God is there, not a God to be scared of, or a God who will demand extraordinary actions from us, quite the opposite, behind this gate, there is a God, who is a mother, a woman who loves, who receives the prodigal son, the sinful daughter, husband, the good thief, the regretful Peter, Paul, the persecutor, and a mother like Mary at the foot of the Cross. Behind the door that you closed when you left home without saying good bye, there is a mother who waits for you all night, days, in the dining room, the kitchen, the bedroom, until the door is open to welcome you back. To my Mother, my wife, my daughters, all the women, and all the mothers of the community, in advance,

Happy Mother's Day.

Fr. Jean +

## Vestry Minutes

April 5, 2020

In attendance at the Zoom meeting: Fr. Jean Beniste, Rector, Don Craig, Treasurer, Cindy Tippet, Clerk of the Vestry, Jeff Tippet, Al Nelson, Greg Thompson, Ben Hale, Walter Smith via phone, Matt Nordigan, John Moore, Building Manager.

Fr. Jean opened with prayer and Dwelling in the Word. We studied 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and discussion was held.

The March minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report was unavailable.

### **Rector and Warden's reports:**

Fr. Jean reports Matt Nordigan has agreed to be our new Junior Warden pending Vestry approval. A motion was made to accept the nomination of Matt Nordigan as Junior Warden, the motion was approved.

Fr. Jean reported Ben Martindale has resigned as Senior Warden.

Fr. Has appointed John Moore as our Building Manager.

Fr. Jean updated the Vestry on the Communication Committee's work in the last month. Work has been done by Greg and Mary Fran on the website and continues as a work in progress. Vestry members talked about possible addition of information that may be included on the website. The church will have web-based emails. We currently have 10 email addresses available and if more are needed they can be added in the future.

Fr. Jean has a team for Outreach Coordinators that includes Pam Moore, Sue Whipple and Hendris Grenier. They will work other groups to be welcoming and hospitable.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Due to the Corona Virus Pandemic the Small Business Association is offering a loan program that has the potential to becoming a grant that does not have to be paid back. Don Craig, Greg Thompson and John Moore have been exploring the possibility of Christ Church applying for one of these loans. Christ Church should qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program and a resolution was made to allow Don Craig to apply for no more than \$25,000.00.

The Resolution resolved that the Vestry approves entering into a SBA Loan Program in accordance with the CARES Act passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. The loan will be underwritten in favor North Shore Trust & Savings and; Don Craig, Treasurer will execute all documents on behalf of Christ Church to effectuate the closing of the loan from North Shore Trust & Savings.

The Vestry unanimously approved the resolution, 8 affirmative votes and no negative votes, and it was signed by Cindy Tippet, Clerk of the Vestry.

**Vestry Retreat:** Fr. Jean put the Vestry retreat on the agenda so we don't forget how important it will be to gather together and determine what our goals for this coming year will be. He asks that Vestry members bring their ideas.

### **Action Items:**

Walter reports the Bishop's Election in June has been postponed until the November Convention due to Covid-19.

An inventory of the parish was discussed. The inventory will determine what we have, how does it work. Active ministries will be included. Matt, Junior Warden, will work with John, Building Manager.

The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday May 17th as the 10<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Tippet, Clerk of the Vestry

## Pledges and Offerings



While we are not present in the building, ministry continues and bills still need to be paid. We are currently 25% in arrears on pledges. Please continue to mail in your gifts as you are able. We are setting up a PayPal account so hopefully in the next few weeks donations can be made to the Church on the Web Page thru PayPal.

## Music

I hope everyone is staying healthy during this challenging time. Although I miss the church building and using the organ, it has been fun creating new sounds with my keyboard for use with our Zoom meetings. If you hear flutes, violin, English horn, those are some of my settings. Some sounds like the electric brass are more modern sounds than the organ at church has!

I want to thank Mark Andersen for making the Zoom meetings run smoothly as we switch between Fr. Jean and myself. I also want to thank Quentin Swartz for his willingness to meet with me on Zoom and perform the part of Jesus as part of the Passion on Palm Sunday. If anyone would like to do some of the singing for the Sunday Zoom services, contact me and I will be glad to meet to go over the songs prior to the service.

I am hopeful that we may get back to church at Pentecost. I wish everyone good health and peace.

Lisa

## Senior Warden

We want to thank Ben Martindale for serving as our Senior Warden over the last two plus years. Ben helped guide us thru the resignation of our former rector, the hiring of supply priests, an interim rector and permanent rector as well as the replacement of our treasure. He also served during the time of the elevator/ accessible project addition. All this despite coming out of retirement and going back to work.

Thanks, John Moore

## **A message from Anne Smith, Deacon Postulant.**

I am a fairly new Episcopalian. I was raised and had lived as a faithful Roman Catholic. My husband and I started attending an Episcopal Church, St. Ann's in Woodstock, in February 2012. About two years later, I was at the Diocesan Convention. I was overwhelmed by the experience. I saw lay and clergy leading. I was given a ballot which symbolized that I had a voice. I saw clergy who were men and women, and I saw clergy who were parents, and I was delighted. I also experienced an unsettling sense that persisted after the convention. I can't say how I was able to sense a call to the diaconate. I remember being connected with a local deacon who was a leader in the deacon community, and I remember studying the rite for ordination of deacons in the Book of Common Prayer. My journey has included discernment, academic training, field training (at Christ Church and at St. Mark's in Barrington Hills), chaplaincy training, and lots of prayer.

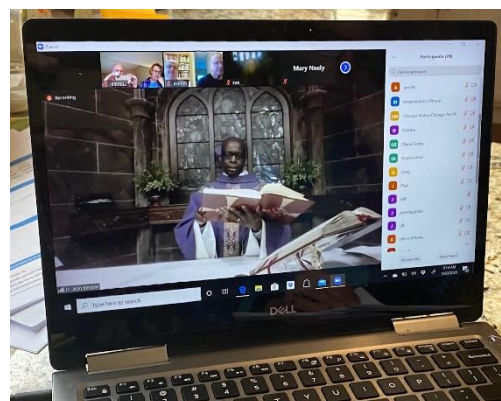
In the ordination rite for a deacon there are two statements that struck me back in 2013 (and still strike me today.) They are in the part of the rite called "The Examination." I especially look forward to being asked whether I believe I am called to these things. "You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world." And "You are to assist bishops and priests in public worship and in ministration of God's Word and Sacraments." (BCP 543) All orders of the Church, lay, bishop, priest, and deacon, are called "to represent Christ and the Church" (BCP 855-856, Catechism.) A deacon is called to represent Christ as a servant, especially to people most in need. All Christians are called to this service. I look forward to serving our parish as a bridge between the world and the church, especially in helping to make our care and service to the world holy. I look forward to also serving the parish in assisting in worship in ways that will enrich our worship and make it more enjoyable for our liturgical ministers and leaders.

Christ Church is a diaconal church. This is a church of servants, and a church pointed to the needs of the world outside the church. I am excited for the future when I can do whatever I can to assist and lead Christ Church as we point our hands and eyes outward. I pray that Christ Church continues to be a blessing to the community of Waukegan and beyond, and that this blessing be recognized in the surrounding communities.

## **Zoom Meetings**

We are using a program called ZOOM Meeting to host our virtual services. This is the software that most churches are using. To join the meeting, just click on the meeting link. If you want to show your video from your phone or computer so others can see you when you talk, then click on "Allow video." The view from your camera can also be seen by others on small boxes on the top or side of your screen. Most people allow this. Most of the time you keep your mic on mute since ZOOM meeting only allows for one person to talk at a time. Mark and Michelle will act as our online host and will be muting mics if people forget. The best way to talk to everyone during the meeting is to use your space bar on your computer to unmute your mic when talking and release it when done talking.

A tutorial on using ZOOM Meeting can be found at this link  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BEPQsfUg2M>



## **Parish Administrator**

We wanted to let you know Matra Guzman no longer works at Christ Episcopal Church, We give thanks for her service.

## **Church Yard Spring Cleanup**

A tentative date of Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am is set for the Church Yard spring cleanup. This date is contingent on the stay at home order being lifted. We will work out details for social distancing and the meal after the cleanup which will probably be a take home bag lunch. For those wishing to help before or after that date we have plastic yard waste cans next to the shed that can be filled with yard waste and taken out to the curb in front of the Rectory on Tuesday evening. The City will pick up to 10 yard waste containers per week.

## **Community Meal**

April has been a busy month at serving the food insecure in the community. Christ Church has been serving the last six Sundays instead of doing a rotation with other Churches. Jennifer and Doug Winston and their family along with Hendris Grenier has been doing most of the meal preparation and serving bag meals to go that include enough food for 3 meals (breakfast, lunch and Dinner). There has been 65 to 100 people being served (195 to 300 meals) each week. Jen said that JR has been stopping by for the meal the last three weeks and he has been doing well. Next week the One Hope Church (Living Faith) will be serving Community Meal and the following week St. Gregory. Jen reported that we will be receiving a grant from the Illinois Food Bank for \$750 to buy food and supplies for community meal. The Church of the Holy Spirit and some parishioners have been donating extra money to help support community meal in this time of need.

## **Individuals in Our Prayers:**

Kathy Antareman, Bill & Nancy Ashley, Bernard & Shirley Barker, The Biddy Family, Cindy Brown, Kathy Brown, Jimmy Carter, Aimee Chamernik, Fran Colboth, Dana, John, Kim and LaVera Davis, Daniel Detwiler, Bob Dixon, Jane Dowden, Shirley Figeas, Yvonne Fogarty, Chris Gibbs, Jerry Gibbs, Marty Goldman, Hendris & Michael Grenier, Ben & Linda Hale, Ethan Haufe, Helen Herman, Rosetta Holmes, Mike Hussey, Cicely James, Jeffery Kibonge, Debbie King, John Lewis, Todd Linna, Sean McBride, Sue McBride, Greg McMinn,, Al & Karen, Dave May, Mic & Tina Mathews, Don Moon, Jan Nelson, Kelley Nichols, Carol Niemi, Susan Paulson, John, Donna Schelfaut, Walter Smith, Patrick Steuer, Elizabeth Sloffer, Nancy Thume, Kevin Timmons, Gretchen Wagner, Phyllis Weaver, Bill Weber, Ann Wills;

## **May Birthdays**

Zachary A.; Nancy A.; Janelle A.; Julia A.; Shirley B.; Judy B.; James C.; Robert D.; Brianna K.; Joshua M.; Edith S.



### *Calendar*

Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 10am Men's Christ Care Group  
Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 9am Morning Prayer Virtual Service  
Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 9am Sunday Liturgy of the Word Virtual Service  
Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2pm -3pm Community Meal (One Hope Team)  
Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 9am Morning Prayer Virtual Service  
Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 9am Sunday Liturgy of the Word Virtual Service  
Sunday, April 17<sup>h</sup> 11am Virtual Vestry Meeting  
Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 2pm-3pm Community Meal (St. Gregory Team)  
Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 10am Men's Christ Care Group  
Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am Morning Prayer Virtual Service  
Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 9am Sunday Liturgy of the Word Virtual Service  
Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2pm -3pm Community Meal (Christ Church Team)  
Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 9am Morning Prayer Virtual Service  
Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 9am Sunday Pentecost Liturgy of the Word Virtual Service  
Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 2pm -3pm Community Meal (Christ Church Team)

#### CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, *Bishop*

The Rev. Jean C. Beniste, *Rector*

Lisa Graves, *Music Director*

John Moore, *Building Manager*



### CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*A Parish of the Diocese of Chicago*

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