

# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Children's, Youth & Family Ministries

That which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us, we will not hide from our children.

We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of God, and the wonderful works God has done. Ur Psalm 78:3-4

April 27, 2014

### Second Sunday of Easter

Vol. 6, Issue 22

### From Mary Anthony

Today's lessons from the Lectionary in church are Acts 2:14a,35-41, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, and the Gospel is John 20:19-31.

In our Godly Play class today our children will hear one of the Easter Enrichment stories of either The Crosses or The Easter Eggs. The lesson of The Crosses explores a sacred symbol. It challenges stereotypes and gets them thinking about what the cross really is about, and who they are in relationship with. The lesson of Easter Eggs though has little to do with the Easter that is celebrated in churches it does introduce children to these eggs as a way to reclaim a wonderful sign of new life . Linda Garman is our Storyteller today and Melinda Rucinski is Doorkeeper.

Our youth are busy finishing up their Homeless Awareness Sleep-out today. They will be performing during our 10 am service and would love to talk to you after the service about their experience. They will also be accepting donations for OPERATION:Homes, an organization in Medina County that helps the homeless get back on their feet.

The last Children's Service of this school year will be on Mother's Day, May 11, at 10 am. The children have been busy preparing the offertory anthem for that Sunday along with working on a special project for their Moms. Please make every effort to have your children here every Sunday so they can practice their song and participate in the project.

The Easter Egg Hunt is May 18. I am looking for donations of Easter candy to stuff the eggs. Please

leave candy donations in the box outside my office. Thank you.

# Collect for Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



# 🔊 Sunday Schedule ơ

9:00am – Nursery opens 9:45am – Godly Play Choir 10:00am – Godly Play Class (Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades meet Wednesday evenings 6 – 9 pm 10:00am – Holy Eucharist *Children join their parents in Church at the Peace* 11:45am – Youth Choir

# Nursery (Infants to age 3)

Unless otherwise noted, the Nursery is open from 9:00 am until the end of the **10am** service. Please sign your child in and out, and remain in the building in by watching**Mickens**. Please come meet Cara.

# Primary - (Pre-k - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

The Godly Play classroom is located in Canterbury House, just inside the door on your left. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. The ideal Godly Play session has four parts-Opening, Hearing the Word of God, Sharing the Feast, and Leaving the Space. Led by **Storytellers** Mary Anthony, Kathleen Chase, Heather Coyle, Linda Garman, Carol Goslee, Kim Hennigan, and Melinda Rucinski and Doorkeepers Tracy French, Michelle Meade on a rotating basis. Visit them in the classrooms. If you would like to make a difference in the lives of some great children and have fun doing it, contact Mary Anthony about assisting on a rotating basis in the Godly Play class. See the sign-up calendar on the Christian Education Bulletin Board.

# Intermediate (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

The Intermediate class is meeting with the Primary class in Canterbury during construction. The curriculum for this age level is also Godly Play. Led by **Heather Coyle, Kim Hennigan, Tracy French, Roanne Lisi and Melinda Rucinski** on a rotating basis.

# Middle School & High School (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

The Middle and High School Sunday School Class will meet every Wednesday evening at the beginning of Youth Group starting at 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted. The curriculum for this age level is Making It Real and Relevant, which is Lectionary based. Our teachers in this class are **Mary Anthony, Pam Ruesch, Barbara Michelson and Rosana Powell.** 

# Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> Grade & Up)

The Youth Group meets at St. Paul's on Wed. evenings starting with dinner at 6 pm. Led by Mary Anthony, Pam Ruesch, Barbara Michelson and Rosana Powell.

# Children's Ministry Committee

Fr. Eric Funston, Mary Anthony, Heather Coyle Rosana Powell, Kim and Sean Hennigan and Melinda & Steve Rucinski.

# For Parents

### THE BLESSING OF A B MINUS The Blessing Of Strange Fruit: Big Dreams, But Whose

Continuing from last week Dr. Wendy Mogul, PhD. writes; ""It is not your child's job to live your dreams. When we demand that our children carry out the family's ambitions, we are not just creating unhappy, pressured, self-defeating young adults. We are snubbing God's wishes for our children. A cornerstone of Jewish thought is that God created each of us to fulfill a specific purpose during life in this world. Each person is responsible for discovering and carrying out their divinely intended purpose. As parents, we cannot determine what our children's path toward holy service will look like. Nor can we determine the destination. But by encouraging them to understand their unique strengths, we help them take the first steps.

### But...But...It's College!

Our culture tells us that we face quickly diminishing resources of every kind – good enough colleges, jobs, ozone...a scarcity of future itself – and that only the hyperaccomplished will survive. At the same time technological progress has become the controlling metaphor for our lives; like the Web, everything we do seems transparent and permanent. One false move on the part of even a very young teen, and the child has mortgaged his future, will never get into college, never get a job, never recover. It's harder than ever for parents to accept their teenagers because it feels as if there's no more room for the trial and error of adolescence, for childishness or clumsiness or bad attitudes. The steady thrum of anxiety causes parents to focus on the appearance of success and stability; grades, popularity, skills, and looks. And the kids feel this stringency, this scarcity economy, too. One fifteen-year-old girl said to me, "I feel like every minute of every day my whole future is on the line."

Nowhere does parents' anxiety about their teen's futures come into sharper relief than in that grand acceptance derby: college admissions. For many parents, the fierce competition for places at the top colleges is evidence that *all* the good things in life are scarce and growing scarcer. They believe that if their kids aren't accepted at the right college, they'll also miss out on meaningful work, quality health insurance, and the ability to provide for themselves and their families. College counselors have observed the way this fear interferes with good judgment in even the most thoughtful parents. Many believe that the ebb and flow of a child's natural evolution do not make for good reading on a college transcript. They can barely tolerate slowing down, much less ebbing. Like the parents who disapproved of their daughter joining drama club, these parents commandeer their teen's academic and personal life with an unblinking view toward impressing college admissions boards: I have to do it for him or it won't get done."

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#### $\bigstar$ In Church School this week: $\bigstar$

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Each week, the children's and youth Sunday School classes focus on a passage from Scripture. These follow the same Revised Common Lectionary that provides readings for Sunday services. We use a curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit, to tailor a lesson for each class that is interactive, fun and age appropriate. This section features the Scripture learned that week in Sunday School, along with some questions to ask about during the

#### week. $\frac{1}{2}$ Focus Scripture: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on the day of Resurrection, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of  $\bigstar$  the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said,  $\mathcal{A}$ "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed Athem his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If  $\bigstar$ you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if ☆you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the Atwelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the A other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails And my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house,  $\overleftrightarrow$ and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ☆"Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus 🛱 said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet Ahave come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these Aare written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. From the Lectionary Page  $\bigstar$ 

## $\star$ What's it all about?

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Early on Easter Day, Mary Magdalene has discovered Athat Jesus' body is missing from the tomb; the door is open, so it looks as though someone has stolen it (v. 1). She has seen a man standing near the tomb. When  $\checkmark$  he speaks to her, she recognizes him as Jesus. She has  $\bigstar$ told the disciples: "I have seen the Lord" (v. 18).

Later the same day, Jesus joins the disciples, gathered behind locked doors. He shows them that he is the one who was crucified (v. 20). Jesus confers on "the disciples" (not including Thomas, but perhaps a group larger than the ten) "peace" (vv. 19, 21) and "the Holy Spirit" (v. 22). As God "breathed" life into Adam, the proto--human, so Jesus now breathes the new, spiritual, life of recreated humanity into his followers. Aided by the Spirit, they continue Jesus' judicial role in the world, forgiving the sins of the faithful and holding others blameworthy ("retain", v. 🛧 23) for their actions. Thomas is expected to believe without having seen, but he demands: show me the evidence! (v. 25) The next Sunday, the community gathers again (v. 26). Upon seeing, Thomas makes the  $\checkmark$ most complete affirmation of faith of anyone in the gospel (v. 29). Henceforth the faith of all Christians in  $\bigstar$ all ages will rest on the testimony of the first believers. Vv. 30-31 tell us John's purpose in writing the book. His eyewitness account is intended to help us, who were not witnesses of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension to "come to believe" and thus "have life in his name", eternal life. ~From Revised Common Lectionary Chris Haslam 1996-2014

### **Ouestions:**

? When does Mary Magdalene recognize she is seeing Jesus ?

What is John's purpose in writing this book ? ?

### Prayer:

Blessed are you, O God of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we receive the legacy of a living hope, born again not only from his death but also from his resurrection. May we who have received forgiveness of sins through the Holy Spirit live to set others free, until, at length, we enter the inheritance that is imperishable and unfading, where Christ lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit. Amen.

~From The Revised Common Lectionary

## Meditation

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \* I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, \* upon those who are noble among the people.

But those who run after other gods \* shall have their troubles multiplied.

Their libations of blood I will not offer, \* nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

O LORD, YOU are my portion and my cup; \* it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \* indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; \* my heart teaches me, night after night.

I have set the LORD always before me; \* because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \* my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, \* nor let your holy one see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life; \* in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. ~Psalm 16

# Contact Information

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None this week!!!

### *Planning Ahead* Sunday, April 27

- Nursery opens at 9 am
- Cherub Choir, 9:45 am
- Sunday School 10 am for Pre-k 5<sup>th</sup> grades
- Homeless Awareness Sleep-out concludes at Noon
- Youth Choir, 11:45 am

### Wednesday, April 30

- Youth Group 6 9 pm, Dinner provided by **Thursday, May 1** 
  - Mission Trip Deposit and Registration extended to this date. Absolute DEADLINE for commitment!

### Sunday, May 4

• Gentlemen's Cake Auction

### Sunday, May 11

• Children's Service, 10 am, NO Sunday School

### Saturday, May 17

• Scrapbooking CROP Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser here at St. Paul's 9 am to 9 pm

### Sunday, May 18

• Easter Egg Hunt

# Acolyte Reminders!

April 27: Nicholas Coyle, Andrew Laub, Juliana Powell, Kirsten Lisi

May 4: Jessica Syme, Julia Syme, Jackie Dilsavor, Dylan Powell

Please remember to get a sub by the Wednesday before you are to serve if you are unable to make your commitment, and then let the office know no later than that Wednesday before.