



The Morning Star

April 2018

Eastertide: awareness of God's action in the world.

We offer thanksgiving and praise to God as we enter into this time of Eastertide: Christ is Risen! Alleluia! This period of fifty days, which includes Ascension Day and the Day of Pentecost, acknowledges the power and action of God in the world and in our lives.

The Gospel of John we proclaim on Easter Day provides for us more than a recounting of the Easter morning narrative. We are offered teaching that gives us insight into a greater meaning for our life and for our death. We discover the foundation of this teaching and the purpose behind God's action towards humanity: Divine Love. The Easter story also expresses humanity's response to this action.

We witness the love Mary Magdalene has for Jesus. She was the first to arrive at the tomb that morning because she could no longer stay away. Peter and John love him, too. And the love each one of them has for Jesus allowed them to have a unique resurrection moment. John becomes the first person to believe in the resurrection. To Mary belongs the glory of being the first person to see the Risen Christ.

We witness the love expressed by Jesus for his disciples and for a commitment to fulfill the will of God. And the Divine Love is offered for all humanity by raising Jesus to new life. The New Testament reminds us that the event of the resurrection is not expressed as Jesus rising, as something conducted on his own, but as Jesus being raised or as God raising him. It is stressed to us that the Resurrection was a powerful act of God.

During Eastertide we are to be mindful of God's action in our life and in the world. When we are down and out, God acts. When life is dead, God acts. When we come to understand and appreciate this, we gain the foundation to the whole concept of our faith and of our spiritual life, in addition to the life we live today.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched our your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p.101

Administrative Assistant Position

Vestry and I are happy to welcome Judy LaPorta to the parish office staff, which commenced the week of March 18. In this role she will assist clergy and congregation with the work of this parish. Judy will be present during office hours on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of the work week. To contact her at the office by email, please continue to use: office@sycamorestpeters.org.

In addition, Vestry elected Judy as its new Clerk during the March meeting. Her election will help streamline the work between vestry and the parish office. The responsibilities of the Clerk include the recording of minutes for all Vestry, annual, and special meetings; provide notice of all such meetings as required by Diocesan Canons and Parish Bylaws; report the names of Parish delegates to Diocesan Convention to the Secretary of the Convention; and retain a current list of all voting members of the Parish. Welcome, Judy!

Spring 2018 United Thank Offering Ingathering April 22nd and April 29th

Spring is here! St. Peter's UTO Spring Ingathering will be held for two Sundays, both at 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. Thankfulness, when embodied, nourishes our being and in turn allows us to not only offer it to God, but to incorporate it in our relationships in daily life. The United Thank Offering invites us to give thanks that we give a coin as a tangible gift—an offering of ourselves which is given to the work that alters the course of peoples' lives....testimony to God's grace in the world. No matter how we do it, we can always give thanks, because we can always pray. We might sing or dance our prayers, we might kneel, sit, stand or lie down, but no matter how we do it we are called to pray always, anywhere and everywhere, silently or aloud. Our prayers, especially those of thanksgiving, become a way of life, a daily discipline of responding to God's abundance. The outward and visible sign of our thankfulness is the Blue Box into which coins are placed to accompany our prayers. The mission projects the UTO funds are the result of unnumbered prayers of thanksgiving offered daily by unnumbered people throughout our church. These are people who have opened their hearts to God and who are participating in the mission of the church by offering themselves to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. When we look at a mission project funded through a UTO grant, we should imagine all those invisible prayers and outreaching hands that have been offered from grateful hearts, providing yet another reason to give thanks—again.

UTO Blue boxes are at the back of the church and may be taken as continuing reminders that coins given in thanksgiving are indeed blessed coins. Our second Ingathering for this year will be in the Fall.

UTO gives thanks for each of you and give thanks for the opportunity to be a part of widespread missionary efforts. The Blue Box is a tool we all can use to bring our baptismal covenant into our lives, particularly the promises to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

If you miss our Ingathering and would like to participate, you may take your offering to the office or place it in the office box in Waterman Hall. If I can be of help or answer any questions about the United Thank Offering, please contact me at 899-1124.

In God We Trust, *Cindy Vain,*
UTO Custodian

Parish Notes

Graduates

We would like to recognize those young women and men in our St. Peter's family who will graduate this spring. Please telephone the church office and let us know of any member of your family who is graduating from middle school, high school, or college. We look forward to acknowledging their achievements and sharing this information with the parish.

St. Paul's 50th Lobster Boil

The deadline to order lobsters for St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Lobster Boil is May 14, 2018. Distribution will be May 19 at the church at 900 Normal Road in DeKalb. Live lobsters cost \$18 and can be picked up at 4 p.m.; cooked lobsters cost \$20 and can be picked up at 5, 6 or 7 p.m. To order, visit www.stpaulsdekalb.org. Order forms also are available at the church. For information, call (815) 756-4888.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE

RED BOWL OFFERING

A check for \$320, \$300 from the Christian Outreach Committee and \$20 from the February Red Bowl Offering, was sent to the DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Auxiliary. Thank you to everyone who donated to this auxiliary, ensuring that equipment and activities will be available for the County Home residents.

Smile Train will be the designated organization for the April Red Bowl Offering. Smile Train is an international children's charity with a sustainable approach to a single, solvable

problem: cleft lip and palate. Millions of children in developing countries with untreated clefts live in isolation, but more importantly, have difficulty eating, breathing and speaking.

Cleft repair is simple, and the transformation is immediate. This sustainable model provides training, funding, and resources to empower local doctors in 85+ developing countries to provide 100%-free cleft repair surgery and comprehensive cleft care in their own communities. Please help this international organization serve children by donating to the April Red Bowl Offering.

HOPE HAVEN DINNERS

St. Peter's continues to provide a meal for the community homeless at Hope Haven on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Needed volunteers include a chair for each month in 2018 and persons to prepare or purchase food items. Sign-up sheets for 2018 are located in Waterman Hall. Please help the Outreach Committee provide one meal each month to our area homeless at Hope Haven.

SYCAMORE FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry donations are being stored out of view in the old nursery, in order to keep Waterman Hall tidy. Please bring a can or two of food to church each Sunday and the Outreach Committee will see that it gets to the Sycamore Food Pantry. Help feed the hungry in our own community by donating to the Sycamore Food Pantry.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank you to the thirteen parishioners who volunteered to drive for Meals on Wheels during the month of March. The "shut-ins" of our community appreciate the warm meal and sack lunch delivered to their front door, and a friendly face checking on their well-being.

DEKALB/SYCAMORE BOOKCASE PROJECT

The DeKalb/Sycamore Bookcase Project provides bookcases and books to the children

at Two Rivers Head Start Program. Thank you to those parishioners who donated new or gently used books for three and four year olds, promoting children's literacy efforts in our community. St Peter's donated over fifty books!

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX MINISTRY

The Shoeboxes St. Peter's packed last November ended in the developing country of Botswana! Thank you again for contributing to this International children's project! Let someone on the Outreach Committee know if you would like to see this holiday project continue again this year.

The next meeting of the Christian Outreach Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 12 Noon in Waterman Hall. Please feel free to join us!

Vestry Meeting Minutes

for February 15, 2018, as approved by the Vestry on March 15, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Fr. Jim Clement, Interim priest. **Opening Prayers** were given.

Those **present** were Fr. Jim Clement, Interim priest, Phil Montgomery, Anita Biletzky, Barb Weaver, Judy Dettloff, John Boies, Henry Vincent, Bronwyn Burgweger, Donna Hill, John Vain, Treasurer, and Donna Hill served as Clerk.

There was no one **absent**.

There were five **guests** in the audience.

The **agenda** was approved as given.

Barb Weaver moved and Phil Montgomery seconded that the January 18th **Minutes** be approved. The motion carried.

There was nothing presented in **open forum**.

Committee Reports

Finance/Treasurer's Report – John Vain reported that the month ended in the positive. He also explained that some people give their full pledge at

the beginning of the year, which inflates the budget at that time. He explained several line items and hand-outs. John Boies moved that the Church pay the \$39.00 fee for the annual renewal updates and support of software. The motion was seconded and carried. There was discussion concerning the organist line item – in view of the fact that there is not a hired-with-pay organist at the present time. Phil Montgomery moved and Barb Weaver seconded that an asterisk be added to the Organist Salary line item to indicate that the \$4,250 is an estimated salary amount for a five month period. The motion carried.

John further explained new tax laws that pertain to non-profits (i.e. St. Peter's)

Buildings and Grounds/Restoration and Renovation – a report is attached

Caregivers – There was no meeting in February

Christian Outreach – a report is attached

Search Committee – There is no update since the last meeting

Interim Rector's Report – Fr. Jim reported that he continues his work in the parish and the larger community. The dates for Children's Christian Education classes for April and May: April 8, 22; May 6, 20. He also provided the schedule of services during Holy Week, March 25 – April 1, 2018:

March 25: Palm Sunday

7:30 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I, and Liturgy of the Palms.

10:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and Liturgy of the Palms.

March 29: Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar.

8:00 PM: Watch at the Altar of Repose.

March 30: Good Friday

Noon: Way of the Cross (The Stations).

12:30 PM: Liturgy of Good Friday.

7:00 PM: Liturgy of Good Friday, with Hymns.

April 1: Easter Sunday

9:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and the Lighting of the Paschal Candle.

In addition, the Office of Morning Prayer will take place Monday through Saturday during Holy Week at 8:30 a.m. Fr. Jim reported that two Baptisms are scheduled for March 11, 2018, Laetare Sunday: Jacob J. Noe, son of Chris and Denielle Noe; and Boden C. Egler, son of Mitch and Shannon Egler. Jenny Sidmore has requested the use of Waterman Hall on Saturday, April 14, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Fr. Jim concluded by noting the funeral service for Robert Saxer will be Monday, February 19, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. A luncheon will follow in Waterman Hall.

Old Business

Staffing : Custodial Services – Fr. Jim, John Vain, and Anita Biletzky will meet with L. Thompson on February 17th. Mr. Thompson has applied for the custodial position. Barb Weaver moved and Judy Dettloff seconded that the Church enter into an independent contract with Mr. Thompson for Custodial services. The motion passed.

Staffing : Administrative Assistant – Fr. Jim reported that the current position-open notice has been reposted, with the "Bookkeeper" responsibilities removed from the job description.

Anita Biletzky was thanked for her service in the Church office since the retiring of Catherine Carroll to the present time.

New Business

2017 Parochial Report – Fr. Jim reviewed the report with the Vestry. He then tabled further action until the next Vestry meeting.

Vestry Roster and Schedule – Fr. Jim updated the roster with the Vestry and noted that the roster and meeting schedule had been distributed.

John Boies complimented Larry Dirst and Judy Dettloff for their work in the Skyroom Library.

Phil Montgomery moved and Barb Weaver seconded that the meeting be **adjourned** at 8:16 P.M. The motion carried.

Father Clement offered **Closing Prayers/Compline**.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Hill, Acting Vestry Clerk

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Resumes are still being accepted for our Rector position, which is posted on the Diocese website as well as our own website.

Although this may seem to be taking a long time, this is not unusual. There are many parishes in the same position. Remember that this will happen in God's time, not ours!

Please continue to pray for the Search Committee and those priests who may be considering St. Peter's as their home.

The Search Committee's Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit and give us wisdom as we seek our next rector so we can discern God's will. Keep us grounded and our hearts open as we go forth in our search. Guide our minds as we do your work, leading this committee where we need to go so that we will receive a faithful pastor who will care for the people of St. Peter's Church and help us grow.

May we be mindful of the past, but focus on the future so our parish may come together with mutual understanding of our differences and similarities to become of one heart and mind as we venture forth into this new beginning.

Lectionary readings for Sundays in April.

The readings may be found at www.lectionarypage.com

April 1: Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

April 8: Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31
Psalm 133

April 15: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48
Psalm 4

April 22: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18
Psalm 23

April 29: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8
Psalm 22:24-30



Prayer Corner

At Easter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Parish Register

Baptism

Jacob J. Noe
Boden C. Egler
March 11, 2018

Burial

Robert M. Saxer
February 19, 2018

Birthdays in April

- 3 Claudia Ruth Hulseberg
- 9 Ryan Drake
- 12 Judy Dettloff
- 13 Miriam Gleeson
- 14 Jeffrey Roberts
- 14 Shannan Harley
- 15 Lynne Roberts
- 15 Joan Mommer
- 16 Jean Erlenborn
- 19 Donna Hill
- 21 Richard Balstrode
- 24 Benjamin Mommer
- 27 Amanda Riego
- 27 Breana Riego
- 27 Daniel Harley
- 29 Anna Mommer

Wedding Anniversaries in April

- 11 Philip & Lisa Montgomery
- 25 Jim & Stefanie Hill
- 25 Patrick & Sandra Dawson

April 2018 Schedule for Nursery and Children's Christian Education (CCE)

April 1 – No nursery care

April 8 – Cindy Vain, nursery;
Jenny Sidmore, Jean Evans, CCE

April 15 – Linda Saxer, nursery

April 22 – Jan Fitzhenry, nursery;
Jenny Sidmore, Jean Evans, CCE

April 29 – Nancy Franke, nursery



Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

To dedicate Altar Flowers or a Sanctuary Candle for a Sunday in 2018, please sign up on the reservation sheets on the bulletin board just outside the Parish Office. Then fill out the dedication form and turn it in to the office.

The Morning Star

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

218 Somonauk Street
Sycamore, Illinois 60178
815-895-2227
www.sycamorestpeters.org

Parish Office Hours: 9am-1pm Monday-Friday Newsletter Staff

The Revd. James Clement	Publisher
Judy LaPorta	Editor
Jane Ovitz, Barbara Weaver, Carol Quitno, Pat Burgweger, Helen Beamish, Nancy Franke	Circulation

Deadline for Submission of Articles

5:00 PM on the 20th of each month. Email your articles to office@sycamorestpeters.org or place them in the Parish Office mailbox in Waterman Hall by the 15th of the month. All articles are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Email subscriptions

You may receive the Morning Star by email by sending a message to office@sycamorestpeters.org.

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. James Clement	Interim Rector
jclement@sycamorestpeters.org	

Larry Dirst	Organist
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Judy LaPorta	Admin. Assistant
office@sycamorestpeters.org	
Days in office: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	

Jean Erlenborn	Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@sycamorestpeters.org	
Days in office: Monday, Wednesday	

The Vestry of the Parish

Phil Montgomery, Senior Warden	847-702-7445
Anita Biletzky, Junior Warden	815-793-5500
Bronwyn Burgweger	815-761-9866
Judy Dettloff	815-895-4225
Henry Vincent	630-465-1951
John Boies	815-353-9703
Donna Hill	815-739-1493
Barbara Weaver	815-895-4324
John Vain, Treasurer	815-899-1124

The Parish Vision Statement

Red doors open for growth and renewal, where we find ourselves and others transformed.

The Parish Mission Statement

To be an inclusive fellowship growing in the Holy Spirit, nurturing the burdened and the joyous, reaching out to our communities and God's world.



YARD SALE FUNDRAISER-

Thursday April 19

Friday April 20

Saturday April 21

8 AM - 4 PM daily

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1915 North First Street DeKalb

Contact: Peter at peterschram@tdsnfp.org

Donations Sought for Tanzania Development Support Garage Sale

Tanzania Development Support is seeking donations of saleable items for their upcoming garage sale fundraiser. The event will take place on Thursday April 19 through Saturday April 21, 2018 from 8 AM - 4 PM at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1915 North First Street in DeKalb.

Donations can be dropped off before the sale dates by calling Jeanine at 815-901-0393 or Tricia at 815-899-7043 to schedule a time. Arrangements can also be made for donations to be picked up if that is needed. Proceeds from the sale will enable TDS to continue projects that promote education and improve the quality of life in the Mara Region of Tanzania. Additional information is available at www.tdsnfp.org.

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Sycamore, IL 60178
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The newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

"...until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" 2 Peter 1:19

