

July 2023
Morning Star
St. Peter's Episcopal
Church

218 Somonauk St.
Sycamore, IL 60178

Website
www.sycamorestpeters.org

Facebook: saint peter's
episcopal church



What then must we do, we who have been found worthy of the name of Christ? Each of us must examine his thoughts, words and deeds, to see whether they are directed toward Christ or are turned away from him. This examination is carried out in various ways. Our deeds or our thoughts or our words are not in harmony with Christ if they issue from passion. They then bear the mark of the enemy who smears the pearl of the heart with the slime of passion, dimming and even destroying the luster of the precious stone.

On the other hand, if they are free from and untainted by every passionate inclination, they are directed toward Christ, the author and source of peace. He is like a pure, untainted stream. If you draw from him the thoughts in your mind and the inclinations of your heart, you will show a likeness to Christ, your source and origin, as the gleaming water in a jar resembles the flowing water from which it was obtained.

A Message from the Rector

In the book of our common prayer and during the confession we said: “we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed..etc”

The life of the Christian has three distinguishing aspects: deeds, words and thought. Thought comes first, then words, since our words express openly the interior conclusions of the mind. Finally, after thoughts and words, comes action, for our deeds carry out what the mind has conceived. So, when one of these results in our acting or speaking or thinking, we must make sure that all our thoughts, words and deeds are controlled by the divine ideal, the revelation of Christ. For then our thoughts, words and deeds will not fall short of the nobility of their implications.

For the purity of Christ and the purity that is manifest in our hearts are identical. Christ's purity, however, is the fountainhead; ours has its source in him and flows out of him. Our life is stamped with the beauty of his thought. The inner and the outer man are harmonized in a kind of music. The mind of Christ is the controlling influence that inspires us to moderation and goodness in our behavior. As I see it, Christian perfection consists in this: sharing the titles which express the meaning of Christ's name, we bring out this meaning in our minds, our prayers and our way of life.

ST. PETER'S GARAGE & BAKE SALE A SUCCESS!!

On June 10th, Waterman Hall was full of treasures and baked goods – everything from books to toys to small appliances, knick knacks, dishes, pots and pans – you name it, we had it!! We also had a great variety of baked goods including cookies, brownies, popcorn, tiramisu, baklava, and more! The sale ran from 9 AM to 3 PM and at the end of the day, the St. Peter's ECW had raised \$1, 073.00. Not a bad day's work!

Thank you to all who had a hand in the sale, whether you donated, baked, priced, arranged, cashiered or were on the floor selling or buying, you made this happen. A huge thank you to Janette Scheer for all her hard work during the days before the sale and the day of. Jan could be seen putting up tents, carrying boxes, arranging items and making sales! Thanks so much Jan, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to Anita Biletzky for creating and donating the awesome sign!

The funds raised will be used to help fund coffee hours, parish suppers, funeral lunches, etc. ECW receives no funding and depends on donations for the events it hosts. We'd also like to be able to add

other activities and programs for the women of St. Peter's. Great work St. Peter's!

Judy LaPorta
ECW President



Cindy Vain was in charge of the bake sale.



Co-chairs of the garage sale were Judy LaPorta and Janette Scheer.



COMING THIS FALL! SEASON 3 OF THE CHOSEN

We are back with the adult education class in the fall as we continue our viewing of the CHOSEN. The class will meet Tuesday nights at 7pm beginning on September 12, 2023. It is an 8 week class, but we will be skipping Halloween night and finishing on 11/7/23.

We are very excited to get back and watch this amazing show with millions of others around the globe. If you aren't sure what is all about, but want to know more, please be sure to contact the office or ask Mark Mendenhall and he can give you all the details about it.

Maybe you're concerned because you haven't watched the first 2 seasons... this can easily be fixed as there are all types of ways to catch up on the first 2 seasons and it is free to watch as well. You can find the shows on several on demand packages such as NETFLIX and AMAZON, or you can watch through the direct website at the following two websites:

https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIu7K1v_nj_wIVhkZyCh3tJgzbEAAAYASAAEgJivFD_BwE

<https://new.thechosen.tv/>

you can also download the app and watch on your android or IPHONE by searching the chosen and there are several apps available. In addition, it's also available on PEACOCK, and youtube.

Stay tuned for more details soon!





Did you hear that the Mendenhall's did an amazing pilgrimage to some holy sites this spring? Do you want to know more about what they saw and how it impacted their lives spiritually? As part of our monthly pot-luck coming in August, the Mendenhall's will be sharing their story of this life changing trip. As you may have heard after their return, they shared a couple of quick stories as well as provided gifts to Father Mark and Father Georges to include in their ministry work. They told a brief story of what was seen but there are other things that happened as well.

During the trip, they saw where Jesus was born, where he lived and where he died and was resurrected. They also saw sites where St. Paul and St. John did their missionary journeys. They'd love for you to hear all about it.

Please be sure to mark your calendars to attend.

JULY 2023 MORNING STAR ARTICLES....

CAREGIVERS COMMITTEE

Committee members, along with the Clergy of St. Peter's, continue to monitor the status and needs of St. Peter's parishioners. We visit "shut ins," send greetings through email and cards, and meet every other month to keep up with our parishioners. The current extended Caregiver's List is in this newsletter and is also at the back of the church. We also realize that there are many "Circles of Friends" in the parish who care and support each other during times of need. That effort is recognized and much appreciated. Please continue to help with prayers, phone calls and birthday cards for those individuals on our list, those alone at home, and residents in health care facilities. Visits, phone calls and written words are invaluable.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE HOPE HAVEN

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed their time and cooking talents to help prepare and deliver a meal to Hope Haven in June. The Outreach Committee is also searching for new recipes, easy to prepare and low cost. If you have any suggestions, please put them in the mailbox of Lynne Roberts. Sign-up sheets for future monthly 2023 dinners for Hope Haven residents are in Waterman Hall. Students on summer break are welcome to help out! Volunteer hours can be acknowledged by the office. A monthly email will also be sent from the office if additional help is needed. Let's all continue to help fulfill St. Peter's 2023 commitment to Hope Haven and our community homeless and hungry.

SYCAMORE FOOD PANTRY

St. Peter's is no longer gathering food donations for the pantry, but monetary donations are always welcome. Quarterly donation checks are sent from the Christian Outreach Committee to the Sycamore Food Pantry, indicating our desire to have food purchased through the Food Bank to guarantee the most value for our donated funds. For Sycamore Food Pantry 2023 donations by

check, please indicate "Sycamore Food Pantry" on the memo line.

SPARTAN FOOD PANTRY

A \$520 donation of diaper wipes packs of 100, and 3 sizes of diapers (5,6, and 7) totaling over 1,000 diapers, was donated to the Spartan Food Pantry in June to help supply the needs of Sycamore School Families. A special June donation of "summer swimmers," was also added by request of the SFP. Our donations are in response to the local growing need for diapers, and is also a way St. Peter's can assess what size of diapers is most needed in our community and the least expensive way to purchase them. The Spartan Food Pantry was most appreciative for the donations.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Each month the Morning Star announces items to be gathered for the Christmas Shoebox Ministry. Late next fall the children of the Church School and interested parishioners will be invited to fill a shoebox using the collected items. We hope to be able to fill 20-25 shoeboxes next fall, making the cost much lower and providing an experience filled with fun and fellowship for St. Peter's parishioners.

During the month of June, we collected small puzzles, card games, card decks, and "fidget toys."

We will continue to collect those items throughout July since the boxes were out of waterman Hall due to the Rummage sale. We will also be collecting small flashlights with extra batteries and jewelry/watches. Bins will be on the "sign-up" table for the items parishioners donate. Thank you to those parishioners who make donations to assure this world-wide effort is successful.

Praise the Source of All Creation

Linda Saxer submitted this for the Morning Star. It was posted by a parishioner from Trinity Episcopal Church in Roanoke, Va.

Praise the Source of all creation, giving life
throughout the Earth,
blessing every love relation, filling all with sacred
worth.

Celebrate all forms and colors, varied beauty
everywhere,
streams of goodness overflowing, wondrous gifts
for all to share.

Many genders, many races, all reflect Divinity;
many gifts and many graces help us be all we can
be.

Partners on this path of freedom, taking down each
stifling wall,
we will open doors of welcome, bringing hope and
joy to all.

Long have many been excluded, judged and
scorned by custom's norms;
everyone will be included as we work to bring
reforms.

Let us end abuse and violence, bringing justice
everywhere,
joining Holy Wisdom's mission, helping all be free
and fair.

Equal marriage, healing, freeing, nurtures body,
mind and soul,
reaffirming every being, all created good and whole.
Come, rejoice and sing together, celebrating life
and love;
praise the great Creative Spirit, living in us and
above.

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ST. PETER'S "THINKING OF YOU" LIST
June, 2023

George and Janice Abizaid
1129 Milan North Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dick Balstrode
BICKFORD of AURORA
7 S Orchard Road
Aurora, IL 60506

Helen Beamish
414 High Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Larry and Deacon Dee Buttmer
20913 West Snowberry Lane
Plainfield, IL 60544

Billy Clem
PO BOX 559
Sycamore, IL 60178

Cynthia Dorband
1600 North Fourteenth Street #204
DeKalb, IL 60115

John and Ann Engstrom
1349 Axel Lane
Sycamore, IL 60178

Harriet George
1008 Joshua Street
Genoa, IL 60135

Shirley Hamill
3466 Prairie Flower Circle
Rockford, IL 61114

Rick Johnson
619 DeKalb Avenue
Sycamore, IL 60178

Tom and Pat Klein
344 Manning Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

Beth Krogman
2944 Greenwood Acres Drive
DARC Health Care Center
DeKalb, IL 60115

Barbara Morton
11715 Ellwood Greens Road
Genoa, IL 60135

Chris and Denielle Noe
1256 Ali Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178

Jane Ovitz
Goodwin House Alexandria
4800 Fillmore Avenue #316
Alexandria, VA 22312

Carol Quitno
2944 Greenwood Acres Drive
DARC Health Care Center
DeKalb, IL 60115

David Roberts
140 Wendy Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Linda Saxer
440 Exchange Street
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dan and Jenny Sidmore
418 Yorkshire Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

Henry Vincent
921 Knollwood Village Road
Apt 208
Caseyville, IL 62232

Tricia Rusin
1640Brickville Road
Sycamore, IL 60178

Al and Anneliese Masco
4630 Grace Street
Schiller Park, IL 60176

Tom Percy
2001 Beck Lane
Lebanon, MO 65536

ST PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2023

Present: Varsie Geisler, Fr Georges, Stefanie Hill, Jenny Sidmore, Lynne Roberts, John Vain, Pat Klein, Treasurer.

Absent: Cindy Vain, Brian Duffy, Fr. Mark Geisler, Deacon Dee

The meeting opened at 7:09 pm with an opening prayer offered by Clergy and Vestry.

AGENDA: approved with no changes

APRIL VESTRY MINUTES:

Approved as written with a motion from Stefanie Hill and a second from Varsie Geisler.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Pat Klein reported that while the income for April was short \$3,000 from budgeted income, our year-to-date actual income shows an overage of \$4,212.

Lynne Roberts moved to accept the report with a second from John Vain. Motion carried.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Varsie Geisler reminded everyone that the June meeting is the deadline for ideas/plans for growing our church, The 5 vestry members can meet together, without the rector and wardens.

The wardens can also meet without the rector.

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT:

*Tuckpointing detailed estimate was received from Seyllers with a quote of \$32,950 with no sealant included.

*Midwest Restoration Services submitted a quote of \$15,210 to thoroughly clean 100 feet of tuckpointing. Hourly labor rate of \$150 and the tuckpointing could be more like 400 feet.

* A motion was made by Stefanie Hill and seconded by Varsie Geisler to accept the Midwest Repair bid. Motion carried.

*BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Frank Beasley reported that Pat Klein will meet with the mechanical company for the needed piping for the makeup air for the furnaces in the church and rectory.

*Once complete we will retest for mold in the rectory.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

*The caregivers group continues to meet regularly.

*The Outreach committee donated boxes of large-size diapers (1,000 total diapers) and 5,400 wipes to the Spartan Food Pantry.

* Safe Church/Safe Community: 8-10 people still have not responded to this required program. Pat Klein offered to contact each of them one more time.

OLD BUSINESS:

*Stefanie Hill will work to secure a training day this summer for the 4-hour First Aid/CPR training.

*Little Library: the needed materials for the repair are cut. Bud Fredin will complete the needed repair as soon as the farming season eases.

NEW BUSINESS:

* We should schedule a spring clean-up even though Midwest Restoration will be making the needed tuckpointing repairs on our grounds. B&G will be contacted to set a date.

* "Beyond Business as Usual" was the book used at the Vestry Retreat which was led by Rodney Fair. New processes were discussed for Vestry responsibilities, which will require extended preplanning. It was suggested that needed changes are made one at a time rather than all at once.

RECTOR'S REPORT:

*St. Peter's will join Salem Lutheran Church for this year's Vacation Bible School. The planned dates are July 17 to July 21 from 9-2 daily. The registration fee is \$15, and St Peter's will help any family with this expense. The Federated Church may also join this planned summer program. Children from kindergarten to 5th grade are invited. Registration forms are available at the church office.

*St. Paul's Church in DeKalb announced that their priest has retired, and they have asked for help with their services for the next 2 weeks. We have offered to have the congregation join us at our weekly 10:15 services, as part of our Good Neighbor policy.

Agenda items were completed at 8:15. A casual conversation for options for Zoom/live stream services followed and will be discussed further at the June meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Varsie Geisler and seconded by Stefanie Hill at 8:35. Motion carried. A closing prayer read by all members and clergy,

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Biletzky
Interim Clerk



July Birthdays

6	John Engstrom
8	Ryan Hill
10	Erin Duffy
11	Marcus Mommer
18	Rob Hill
18	Christopher Newquist
18	Larry Buttimer
19	Trisha Drake
19	Annamae Friden
20	Drake Crittenden
21	Melissa Friden
22	Helen Beamish
22	Anne Ovitz Ayres
28	Mary Kowing
28	Denielle Noe
31	Carol Quitno

July Anniversaries

7	Deb & Larry Sipp
19	Michael & Cecelia Grimson
20	Pam & Stan Bradford
26	Ann & John Engstrom

Service Times for Summer:

Sunday	No 8 o'clock service	June through
	September	
	8:45 am Zoom Service	
	July 9th and 30th	
	Zoom dates for August TBD	
	10:15 am In-Person Rite II	

Parish Office Hours:

9am-1pm Monday-Thursday
9-11am Friday

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218 Somonauk Street
 Sycamore, Illinois 60178 815-895-2227

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Parish Calendar for July 2023

Sunday July 2

10:15 Rite II

Celebrant: Father Georges

Preach: Father Georges

Sunday July 9

8:45 Zoom

10:15 Rite II with Healing Service

Celebrant: Father Georges

Preach: Father Mark

11:30 Finance Meeting

Thursday July 13

6:00 pm Parish Supper

Sunday July 16

10:15 Rite II

Celebrant: Father Georges

Preach: Father Georges

Thursday July 20

7:00 pm Vestry Meeting

Thursday July 20

Garage Sale

Friday July 21

Garage Sale

Sunday July 23

10:15 Rite II

Celebrant: Father Mark

Preach: Deacon Dee

11:30 Guest Speaker

Sunday July 30

8:45 Zoom

10:15 Rite II

Celebrant: Father Georges

Preach: Father Mark

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Georges Jallouf Rector

918-859-5877/ Rector@sycamorestpeters.org

Assistant to the Rector: Fr. Mark Geisler

815-766-0694

Deacon: Desiree Goodale

Sarah Mendenhall: Music Director

Pat Klein

Admin. Assistant

office@sycamorestpeters.org

Days in office: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Jean Erlenborn

Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@sycamorestpeters.org

Days in office: Monday, Tuesday

The Vestry of the Parish

Varsie Geisler, Sr. Warden 815-766-1127

Brian Duffy, Junior Warden 815-298-6182

Stefanie Hill 815-761-5052

Jenny Sidmore 815-501-0102

Cindy Vain 815-899-1124

John Vain 815-761-5169

Lynne Roberts 815-751-7846

Pat Klein, Treasurer

815-751-0722

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Volume 28, Issue 7 – July 2023



The Morning Star



The newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

The Parish Vision 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*

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