

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



February Issue

Feb 4, 2023

Listen to Him

“Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” The Father’s words at the Transfiguration of Jesus. This is the second time the Father has called Jesus his Son the Beloved. The first was at Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, “This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!” (Matthew 3:14-15) In both of these proclamations Beloved and Son are used, but in the Transfiguration of Jesus, a sign of authority is added, “Listen to him!” I take this as a command as clear as the Great Commandment. There is no “wiggle room” in either command. In one we are called to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, in the other we are told to listen to his Son. Before I go any further, I feel I should give you a little background on what might appear as a strange obsession with this word, this command to “listen.” I believe it may have started with Morning Prayer January 14th and the Gospel reading for that service, Mark 1:29-45. The reading begins with Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James, and John leaving the synagogue and going to Simon’s mother-in-law’s house, where they find her in bed with a fever. Verse 31 is, in my opinion, rather strange. Instead of saying Jesus felt compassion for her and healed her, it states, “He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.” The Gospel reading goes on to tell us, “That evening the whole city was gath-

ered around the door.” Jesus heals many and casts out demons from others. In the morning when it is still very dark, Jesus leaves the house and goes out to a deserted place to pray. To me, it sounds like Jesus is exhausted, weary of the demands made of him to heal and to cast out demons.

The disciples seem unaware of the plight of Jesus and as it is written, “They hunted for him.” When they find him, instead of asking him why he had sought out a deserted place like this, they say, “Everyone is searching for you.” It seems clear that the town searching for Jesus was not looking for him so that they might listen to the message he was proclaiming in the synagogue, but to secure more healings. They were not listening. Jesus – ever understanding, ever gracious, tells them, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came to do.” If we were in the position to complete the thought of Jesus, we might write, “I do these signs and wonders of the one who sent me that you might believe.” Beginning with verse 40, a leper kneels before Jesus and says, “If you choose, you can make me clean.” Jesus says, “I do choose,” touches him, and then says, “Be made clean.” If we read between the lines, Jesus doesn’t want a repeat of what happened in the previous town. Verse 43: “After sternly warning him, he sent him away at once, saying to him, ‘See that you say nothing to anyone.’” And what was the healed leper’s reaction to this warning by Jesus? Verse 45: “But he went out and began to proclaim it freely so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country and people came to him from every quarter.” When I began writing I thought I might be able to do a better job of doing a synopsis of the Gospel reading, but oh well, I tried.

As many of you might know, Paige and I are really into a book called “You are the Beloved.” (daily meditations for spiritual living) by author Henri J.M. Nouwen. We are beginning our second time through these daily readings. The January 20th reading is titled “Learn to trust God.” The meditation begins by telling us of Jesus’ core message, “that God is neither a powerless weakling nor a powerful boss, but a lover, whose only desire is to give us what our hearts most desire.” It goes on by telling us, “to pray is to listen to that voice of love and that is what obedience is all about.” We are told that the word obedience comes from the Latin word ob-audire which

means, “To listen with great attentiveness.” If we don’t listen, we become “deaf” to the voice of love. Here we have another definition, the Latin word for deaf is “surdus” and to be completely deaf is to be “absurdus;” yes, absurd. The summation is “that if we no longer pray and no longer listen to the voice of love, we will live absurd lives in which we are thrown back and forth between the past and the future.” I love the closing line, “The one who is with us wants only one thing: to give us love.”

I pray that some of this touches you as it has touched me. In looking about us in this world, do we share what we see and hear? Is this world filled with people listening to the “voice of love,” or people suffering from the “surdus,” deafness to the heavenly message?

This past Sunday, January 22, we gathered together for our annual parish meeting. Our financial reports were read, thank yous given for the “good works” done by many, over not just this past year, but in some cases over a period of years. As I watched and listened, I could feel an overall sense of confidence in our ability to continue our service to the Lord, even as we continue our search for our next priest. There is a sense of the “peace of the Lord” here, a sense of purpose and service to the Lord and each other. There is also a sense of the true meaning of sanctuary. The definition historically is the holiest of holy places – a temple or church; today it is a word for anywhere a person feels especially safe and serene. I believe both of these definitions describe St. Paul’s. I’m not sure this is how I have always felt about St. Paul’s, so what happened, what changed, and when did it change? For me, the change began with the acceptance of the people from my former church, Christ the King, and personally with the love given to me and Paige from day one. I believe there was also an event that I feel was blessed by our Lord; the throwing open of the doors of St. Paul’s to our entire community in a time of great danger, and the overwhelming response to St. Paul’s action. I wrote a poem, at that time, about the event trying to capture some of the “awe and wonder” of what can occur when we listen to a message from heaven and respond with our hearts, minds, and strength. Below you can find my poem. I hope it may help remind all of us that moment in time of “awe and wonder.”

May we continue to listen to our Lord as we pray.

Your servant in Christ, Deacon George

Doors Thrown Open

They're coming to our community,
to our city with their banners and flags of hate.
They're coming wearing their black boots
to march loudly upon our sidewalks and streets,
spewing hate and brandishing weapons
hung across their chests, a threat of violence
if any should dare question or oppose their supremacy.

A new threat, a new ideology, not hardly
just a resurfacing of an evil
that once held the whole world in fear.
But what to do, how should we respond to this hate?
This evil that threatens not just our community,
but towns and cities across our nation,
perhaps again even the world.

Talk of a counter protest began to echo
about our community;
articles written in our newspaper,
people talking in raised voices
warnings of violence if the "them" and the "us"
became hate versus hate.
Meetings of what to do were held.

In the midst of our questioning and confusion
came the quietly strong voice of our priest
Father Nick... "What would happen if instead of
a counter protest, we threw open the doors
of Saint Paul's to the entire community
as a place to gather to express our love

for our diverse community?”

There’s a lot to be said for our arched sign
at the edge of our downtown:

“Water, Wealth, Contentment, Health.”

Perhaps a bit “horse-drawn” and antiquated
while at the same time expressing values we hold dear
and remembering there are many kinds of wealth.
Nick’s words touched these values and the natural desire
for unity in times of danger.

Phone calls were made,
leaders in our community joined hands like never before.
Hope spread by word of mouth and soon
the dream of celebrating our diversity
would become a reality.

With the doors thrown open, the people came.
Two by two, four by four, waves of tens,
and then hundreds.

The pews were filled for the first time in memory,
still they came,
standing two and three deep,
and all the while with smiles upon their faces.
People spoke and people listened.
There was applause like thundering amens.

Isn’t it amazing how hate crumbles when faced with love?
Amazing how prayers are answered,
how light drives away darkness,
how the signs and wonders of the Lord may be seen by all
when one person of courage risks all
by the telling of God’s truth and God’s promise
throwing open the doors of the sacred
proclaiming in God’s love,

All are welcome

Earn It!

Keep It!

Save It!

**February 4th, 2023,
February 18th, 2023
and
March 25th, 2023**

Community
Services Agency
StanWORKs Building
251 E. Hackett Rd.
Modesto, CA 95358

To make an
appointment or get
more information
call

(209) 558-1510

Free Tax Preparation

Don't pay to have your taxes done – we'll do them
for **FREE** with **FREE E-FILE!**

If you worked in 2022, you may qualify for **thousands**
in tax refunds and credits – you just have to file
your taxes!

Three all day events are being held at **CSA** on
02/04/2023, 02/18/2023 and 03/25/2023.

Certified volunteers will be available, so **call now**
and **save hundreds in tax preparation fees.**

Bring with you, if applicable:

**\$ Picture ID and original Social Security cards for
all family members**

\$ W-2 Forms, 1099 Forms

\$ Unemployment documents

\$ Earned Interest Statements

**\$ Homeowner 1098 Forms, property tax information if
you own your home, vehicle registration statement
from DMV**

\$ Child Care documentation

\$ Charitable donation information

\$ Copy of last year's return

\$ Bank Account Information (for direct deposit)

\$ New vehicle purchase information



Salvation Army Shelter Dinner

The Salvation Army Shelter Dinner Team has successfully completed our January dinner and the next day of ministry to the Salvation Army Shelter will be March 26th.

Our Team is always happy to have anyone help with any of the many ways to be part of this ministry. Ways to help include: praying for the Team and the guests at the Shelter; donating funds toward the costs of purchasing the various ingredients; donating particular parts of the menu; baking or cooking prior to the dinner (i.e. chocolate chip cookies, ground beef, cornbread, etc.); preparing the meal the day of the dinner—done in the church kitchen and/or serving at the Shelter. After March 26th, our next dinners will be in May, July, September and November.

A huge thank you to everyone who makes this ministry possible. Contact Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937 or lwlowe@outlook.com, for details about the individual dates and how you might be available to help.

The River of Life

The Red River of the North, in the north-central U.S. and central Canada, takes countless twists and turns. A close-up aerial photo or map shows its frequent sideswipes and U-turns. One could cross the river several times without changing direction while hiking or biking along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota. You might wonder at points if it has completely turned back south — which raises another point: While most rivers flow south, the Red River flows north.

Sometimes life meanders, but that doesn't mean we're off course. Sometimes we seem to be going in the opposite direction of most people, but that doesn't mean we're not headed the right way. Sometimes it feels like it takes us a long time to make progress, but that doesn't mean we're not moving. We might just be taking in more of life's scenery! Follow your own unique trajectory, letting God, the creator of all rivers and all life, serve as the current that moves you ever onward.

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Get Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests This Winter

Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests.

Before you throw out “Expired” tests Check to see if your COVID-19 tests’ expiration dates have been extended.

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>

Order Free At-Home Tests <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

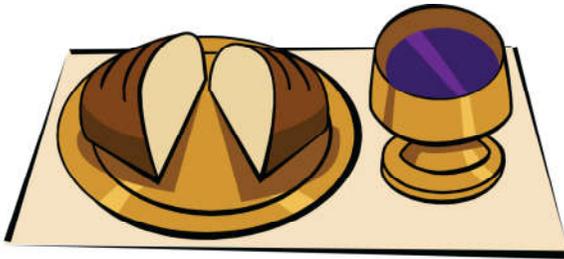
Need help placing an order for your at-home tests?

Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489)

If you would like to see the whole article, you can find it here.

<https://www.covid.gov/tests>

Thanks to Barbara Vassell for this information



What’s in it for me?

Communion takes on new meaning for me when Jesus calls himself the bread of life. The day after feeding the 5,000, Jesus explains, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life” (John

6:54, NIV). Many people stop following him after that, finding the teaching too difficult. Maybe Jesus is challenging people who claim to be his disciples but are in it just for the miracles.

When I hear the Words of Institution, I ask myself if I’m a “What’s in it for me?” follower. Do I expect Jesus to merely impress me with answered prayers? Or do I trust him completely and serve him wholeheartedly? Am I like Peter, who, when asked whether I’ll leave too, replies, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (v. 68).

—Julie Lee

Prayer and Praise

as of 2-4-2023



- ◆ Christine Judd is still in the hospital in terrible pain and has an infection throughout her body. Please pray for healing, comfort and strength and for the wisdom of her Doctors and family when making decisions about her future care.
- ◆ Please pray for Bonnie Palmer and her son-in-law Jack Biglow. They have both tested positive for Covid. Also pray that it doesn't spread to the rest of the family.
- ◆ Please pray for David West.
- ◆ Pray for strength, comfort and healing for Deacon Amy Larson as she recovers from illness.
- ◆ Please pray for Jean, a friend of Sarah Hartmann who is had open heart surgery the first part of January.
- ◆ Praise & Thanksgiving, Carol Collier's operation was a success and she is now home. Amen! please continue to pray for healing.
- ◆ Please continue to pray for healing for Keith and Ginny Munroe.
- ◆ Continued healing for Rj.
- ◆ Please pray for our Vestry and the new members.
- ◆ Please pray for those who maybe alone or struggling in some way.
- ◆ Please pray for our search committee.

If you have any pastoral needs, please contact the church office.

We are looking for someone to volunteer to run the live streaming of our service on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please contact Joyce Bell at 215-275-6502.

February Ministry Schedule

	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
Clergy Homily	Rev. Dondi Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn Rev. Lyn	Rev. Lyn Rev. Lyn	Rev. Lyn Dcn. Greg
Acolytes	Nancy S Judy T	Jim P Annamary	Nancy S Claudine	Judy T Claudine
Lectors	Steph HW Ann M	Sarah H Nancy S	Barbara V Judy T	Steph G Barbara V
Intercessor	Carolyn L	Victoria W	Roberta B	Nancy S
Greeters	Phil M Linda L	Sarah H Carolyn L	Phil M Linda L	Sarah H Carolyn L
Vestry Rep	Carolyn L	Victoria W	Barbara V	Nancy S



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday Feb 22nd at 7:00 p.m.



First Sunday
IN LENT

Sunday Feb 26th at 10:00 a.m.



Palm Sunday

Sunday April 2nd at 10:00 a.m.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday April 6th at 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday

Friday April 7th at 12:00 noon

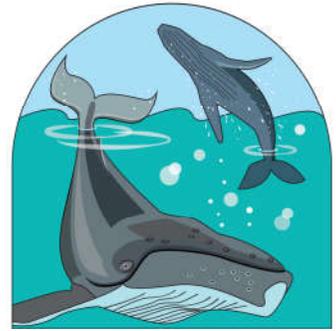


Easter Sunday

Sunday April 9th at 10:00 a.m.

Going Out of Our Way

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.



Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: “If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.” Further, “whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward” (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God’s hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.



Love Aces the Test

Author Adele Calhoun describes life as “our ‘open-book’ test on love.” How can we ace it? In *Invitations From God*, she points out that daily decisions are the make-or-break factors: “Day in and day out as we plan, work, produce, commute and relate, we make life-altering choices to either love or neglect others.”

For another study guide, reflect on St. Augustine’s timeless words: “What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of [people]. That is what love looks like.”

Financial Reports 2023 Approved Budget Summary

INCOME

Total Anticipated Income

Unrestricted Income	\$ 214,500.00	
Rental, Fundraising, Other Incomes	\$ 114,600.00	
		\$329,160.00
Restricted Income		
Designated Offerings	\$ 20,090.00	
Specific Charitable Offerings	\$ 480.00	
		\$ 20,570.00
Total Income – All Sources		\$349,730.00
Services Expenses (altar,youth,music,funeral,etc)	\$ 9,725.00	
Rector’s Expenses (priest,supply,discretionary fund)	\$ 105,565.00	
Office Expenses (admin,equip rent,supplies,pub rel, facility use, prop. taxes)	\$ 89,350.00	
Diocese Expense Expense	\$ 30,500.00	
Facility Maintenance (repairs,services)	\$ 9,200.00	
Facility Services (cleaning,security,pest,insurance, alarm,fire)	\$ 63,300.00	
Ultities (water,sewer,garbage,electricity,phone,internet)	\$ 41,030.00	
Total Expenses – All Categories		\$349,670.00
Difference		\$ 60.00

Financial Summary for 2022 As of January 4, 2022

Total Revenue (actual)	\$ 396,621.42	
Total Expenditures (actual)	\$ 342,987.68	
DIFFERENCE (Balance)	\$ 53,633.74	

Financial Reports Assets As of December 31, 2022

Balance in Checking Account:	\$ 219,431.85	
Balance in Savings Account:	\$ 33,027.98	
CD:	\$ 5,170.56	
Accounts Receivable:	\$ - 1,270.19	
Total Fixed Assets:	\$ 8,366.09	
Total assets		\$264,726.29

To Buy, Or Not To Buy - My Electric Vehicle

To get started, I think it is most helpful to understand the different electronic vehicle types.

A BEV Battery Electronic Vehicle runs solely on electricity - no gasoline. The range on one charge is approximately 234 miles. Currently, there are a limited number of charging stations. When you charge at home (110 volts) it takes an hour to get a 4-6 mile range. When you charge at home with a 220 volt outlet (same as your clothes dryer) it takes an hour to get a 22-26 mile range. When charge at a fast charge level 3 charging station, it takes an hour to get up to a 300 mile range. Currently, the Tesla is the only EV that can use the level 3 charging station.

A PHEV Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle can run solely on electricity or the gas engine. The PHEVs have a smaller battery than the BEVs.

A Hybrid Electric Vehicle can not be plugged in for recharging. When you are driving at slow speeds, you usually use electricity. When you accelerate and drive at faster speeds you are usually using the gas engine while at the same time your battery is being recharged.

When you purchase your PHEV, or BEV you are eligible for a standard rebate. BEV rebate is at least \$2000 and up to \$4500 depending on your household income. PHEV rebate is \$1000 and up to \$3500 depending on your household income. You are also eligible for a Federal Tax Credit of up to \$7500. depending on the size of the vehicle's battery size.

For additional information, you can go to CleanVehicleRebate.org/incentives

While St. Paul's is in a period of time without a permanent priest, if you are in need of any services from the church, the protocol is to contact Jeni Statzer our Parish Administrator. If Jeni is on vacation or otherwise unavailable, please contact our Senior Warden, Linda Lowe.



Meetings, News and Needs

- ☞ There is a parish member living in the Coffee & Sunrise area who needs a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Please call Jeni if you can help.
- ☞ Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper and Talent Show will be on Feb 21st. If you have a talent that you wish to share, please contact Chuck Sheaffer.
- ☞ The Salvation Army commodities program at the church is in need of paper & plastic shopping bags. Please bring them to church on any Sunday or drop them off at the office any Monday from 9-12.
- ☞ Knit One, Pray Too will have their first meeting this year on Monday Feb 20 at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room off of the Parish Hall. They will be thinking about what their project will be for this year.
- ☞ Tai Chi meets in the Parish Hall every Tues. and Thurs. from 9 to 10.
- ☞ The California Highway Patrol will be having a crab feed at St. Paul's on February 25th in the Parish Hall. Jeni has the details on time and how to get tickets.
- ☞ Beyer High School will be having a Spaghetti Feed in the Parish Hall on March 2nd and a Crab Feed in the Parish Hall on March 11th. Jeni has the details on time and how to get tickets.
- ☞ Food Distribution continues in the Parish Hall the 1st Wednesday of every month from 11 to 12 noon.
- ☞ Book Study - Rex Adamson will be hosting a weekly book study during Lent to examine the instruction of Christ given in the Gospel of Matthew to, "Go and make disciples of all nations...". The discussions will center around the book, Is The Commission Still Great by Steve Richardson. The study will be at the home of Rex and Yvonne Adamson, Thursday evenings, 7-8:30, February 23, March 2, 9, 16, and 23. The book will be

provided for free and registration is required. Call Rex at 209-595-4935 to register and for full details.

- ☞ BINGO - Mark your calendar on March 24th at 6:30 pm for an evening of *Bingo!* Invite your friends for an evening of fun for all ages!
- ☞ Paint and Succulents Day - Want to create something beautiful for all seasons? Need help or encouragement with painting and planting? In June come paint a flower pot guided by a local artist and fill it with lovely succulent plants while learning about them. All materials will be included to decorate the pot and finish it with a variety of plants. More details to come, including the date and time.
- ☞ Thank you to everyone who helped contribute to St. Paul's by purchasing "Linda's Mixed Berry Jam 2022". For those who thought that their chance to enjoy the yumminess and contribute had ended, have no fear! While supplies last the jam is available in both sizes-8 oz for a donation of \$5, and 16 oz for \$10 donation. Contact Linda Lowe at lwlowe@outlook.com or 209-496-3937. Cash or check made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, please.

From Death To New Life

After the inventor of the Frisbee died in 2002, family members honored his final wish: to have some of his ashes molded into a flying disk! The point, according to toy legend "Steady Ed" Headrick, was for his loved ones to have fun playing with him even after he had passed. "He lived for Frisbee," said his widow, and now he lives on in one.

Thankfully, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday aren't cremains. But they do have special significance. They're often made by burning branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration. By tying together seasons, the practice of receiving ashes reminds us of cycles: sin, repentance and forgiveness, plus life, death and resurrection — Jesus' as well as our own.



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- \$ Unemployment documents
- \$ Earned Interest Statements
- \$ Homeowner 1098 Forms, property tax information if you own your home, vehicle registration statement from DMV
- \$ Child Care documentation
- \$ Charitable donation information
- \$ Copy of last year's return
- \$ Bank Account Information (for direct deposit)
- \$ New vehicle purchase information



Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

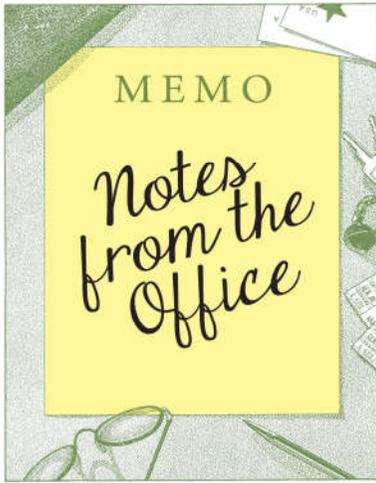
Don't Lose the Key

In *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L'Engle writes: “We have to be braver than we think we can be, because God is constantly calling us to be more than we are, to see through plastic sham to living, breathing reality, and to break down our defenses of self-protection in order to be free to receive and give love.” That sounds inspiring, but the moment I stumble, exhausted or overwhelmed, these words no longer encourage. Instead, they read like the work is mine alone, and I'm not up for that.



Knowing some of L'Engle's writings on faith, I researched that quote. Turns out it had been chopped off at the knees. Her next words are the key: “With God, even a rich man can enter the narrow gate to heaven.” With God.

I can't respond to God's call to be more than I am, grow in faith, serve my neighbor or “enter the narrow gate to heaven” on my own. But “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26), and whatever Jesus calls me to do, he will equip me to do, walking with me all the way. —Heidi Hyland Mann



It's hard to believe we are already a month in to 2023! My motto for this year is GATHER, GO, and GROW. We need to be in community, go out into the community and grow, not just for ourselves but I like to say bring one more to the table. This year we are partnering with MoPride, the Shower Shuttle as we continue to support our other ministries. Here are some ways you can be part of this movement:

-The first Sunday of the month there is a donation box for Interfaith Ministries (Now called The Stanislaus Food Initiative)

-There will be a clothing donation box for MoPride in the narthex. We will be collecting clothing year around. They are also in need of feminine hygiene products. Also, watch for upcoming events we will be sponsoring and consider attending to show our love.

-There will be a basket in the narthex for the Shower Shuttle, they always need underwear and socks! We will also be putting together hygiene kits and need two-blade razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, travel Kleenex, combs and q-tips. Clothes soap and dryer sheets are also a big need.

-If you are interested in helping with the food giveaway the first Wednesday of each month please contact Judy Teter.

-If you are interested in helping with Salvation Army dinners please contact Linda Lowe

-If you are interested in helping Knit One, Pray Two please contact Gayle Ivy

-Mark your Calendars for April 29th for LOVE MODESTO, I am working with them to host an event at St. Paul's. More information to come.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me!

Blessings,
Jeni Statzer, Parish Administrator
Gather, Grow, Go

The Prayer from Last Sunday's Service

Merciful Lord, we come to you heavy hearted, for we have heard the cries of the slain calling to us from the ground. We come remembering all the lives lost to the weapons of war that have flooded our communities. May we be empowered by your Spirit to reverse the brokenness of the world that has led to conditions that produce men and women who are driven to resort to violence and destructive behavior. We cry out to you, heal our souls from this scourge of violence. Endow us with the courage to step down from the pulpits and out from behind our desks to seek the peace of the city. In the coming days and weeks as our leaders debate solutions, Lord we ask that you grant us the voice to speak truth to power and demonstrate sacrificial compassion to the hurting. Amen. (adapted from Episcopal Peace Fellowship)



In light of the mass shootings recently and the epidemic of gun violence in this country, our diocese is encouraging us to “sign on to the "Tell your US Representative: Work To End Gun Violence in 2023" letter.”

https://act.everytown.org/sign/welcome_back_Congress_Jan2023/?source=etno_act_page&refcode=etno_act_page&utm_source=etno_act_page&utm_medium=o&utm_campaign=act_page&gl=1*596gbo*_ga*MjEwODY0ODA3NS4xNjc0Njc0OTcz*_ga_LT0FWV3EK3*MTY3NDY3NDk3NC4xLjAuMTY3NDY3NDk3NC4wLjAuMA

Recycling at St. Paul's

Every Sunday, collection cans for recycled aluminum cans and CA redeemable plastic are in the church entrance. Please **rinse and drain** your recyclable plastic and aluminum cans before putting them in the bins. The money from recycling will go to fund "Creation Care" projects.



The Knots Prayer

Dear God,
please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.
Remove the have nots,
the can nots and the do nots
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots,
may nots, and
might nots that find
a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots,
would nots and
should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, dear God,
I ask that you remove from my mind
my heart and my life all of the am nots
that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am not good enough.

Amen.

Make Music a
Part of Your Life



If you are interested in singing
in the choir or ringing bells
please contact Chuck Sheaffer.
We would love to have you
join us!

Choir rehearsals have started
on Sunday mornings before the
service, at 9:15.

We need more people to ring
bells before we can start bell
choir rehearsals.



The chart to sign up for flowers for 2023 is in the narthex. Now is your chance to sign-up for the dates you want before they are taken.

Kid's Page

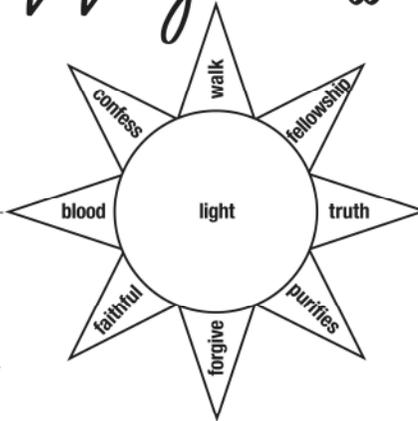


The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?

Directions:

Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.



But if we _____ in the _____, as he is in the _____,
 we have _____ with one another, and the _____
 of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all sin. If we claim to be
 without sin, we deceive ourselves and the _____ is not in us.
 If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just and will
 _____ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

Children of the LIGHT

This craft celebrates that now we are light in the Lord (see Ephesians 5:8).

What you need:

- A gallon zip-top plastic bag
- Permanent markers (dark colors)
- Black construction paper
- White cardstock
- Scissors

What you do:

1. Draw a self-portrait on the outside of the bag. Add details.
2. Insert the black paper and set the bag flat on a table. It should be tough to see your picture now.
3. On the white cardstock, draw a picture of a flashlight with a long beam of light coming out. Color the flashlight but leave the beam white.
4. Cut out the flashlight and light beam. Place them in the bag, over the black paper. When the white beam covers the black background under your picture, you can see your self-portrait clearly.

Answer: walk, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, confess, faithful, forgive



Michael B. Curry, our Presiding Bishop
David Rice, our Bishop & **Anna Carmichael**, our Canon

Armed Forces



Tom Allen, Wyoming Air National Guard
Melissa Allen, U. S. Air Force
Brandon Alonzo, U. S. Air Force
Christopher Bradley, U. S. Navy
T. J. Browning, U. S. Navy
Jay Colón, U. S. Air Force
Brandon Cox, Texas Air National Guard

Cheryl Edelman, U. S. Army
Jenavieve Johnston, U. S. Air Force
Jorgito Fuentes, U. S. Navy
Johnny Olmos, U. S. Coast Guard
Cole Medeiros, U. S. Navy
Nate Wallace, U. S. Air Force R
Carson Repan, U. S. Air Force

If you have any updates or new names for the Armed Forces list, please let Cherie Sheaffer know.

Please pray for all of our sisters and brothers in Christ.

God of wisdom and love, help me and all others who are struggling with difficult circumstances find direction and strength to face our challenges. Give us the assurance that underneath us are your everlasting arms, which will sustain us through everything we face day and night. In Jesus' name. Amen.

February Birthdays

Valerie Peters - 6
Elaine Paradis - 11
Elizabeth Cassagio - 13
Dominic Maestas - 15
Rj Moriconi - 16
Colin West - 22
Craig Persons - 23
Beatriz Peters - 27
Mary Su - 27
George Cano - 28

February Anniversaries

Phil & Anita Machado - 10
Niniv & Rosanna Tamimi - 14
Craig & Marti Persons - 28

If your birthday or anniversary is in February and you aren't listed here, please let Cherie Sheaffer know. We don't want to leave anyone out.



Upcoming Events



Church office hours
By appointment only.

- Feb - African-American History Month
- Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb 20 - President's Day
- Feb 20 - Knit One, Pray Too 1:00 p.m. Youth room
- Feb 21 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, Talent Show and Raffle, Parish Hall
- Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 23 - Book Study at Rex and Yvonne Adamson's home, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- Feb 25 - CHP Crab Feed, Parish Hall
- Feb 26 - First Sunday in Lent, Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Mar 2 - Beyer Spaghetti Feed, Parish Hall
- Mar 1 - Food Distribution 11:00 a.m. - Noon
- Mar 11 - Beyer Crab Feed, Parish Hall
- Mar 24 - Bingo at 6:30 p.m. Parish Hall
- Mar 25 - MoPride Dance, Parish Hall
- Mar 26 - Salvation Army Dinner
- Apr 29 - Love Modesto

February 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

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Then click on videos.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Modesto CA

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBABwqOZphWFUZVjnc7eFqw>



www.<https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/>





The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

February 4, 2023, Volume 14, Number 02 February

Church Office Phone: 209-522-3267, st.pauls_episcopal@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours: Closed till further notice, call if you need assistance

E-mail Addresses

Parish Admin. & Facilities Coordinator

Jeni Statzer, stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

Music Director, Organist & Choir

Chuck Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

Bell Choir Director

Judy Teter, jltp@sbcglobal.net

St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletins

Cherie Sheaffer, cbshea@pacbell.net

St. Paul's Web Page & Social Media

Greg Maszta, gregmasz@gmail.com

St. Paul's Event Coordinator

Tracy Pugh, vinofileincal@gmail.com

Stewardship Campaign

Carolyn List and Stephanie Gilmer

Finance Committee

Judy Teter, jltp@sbcglobal.net

Safeguarding God's Children/People

Jeni Statzer and Stephanie Gilmer

Children's Sunday School

Zach Statzer, youthstpaulsmodesto@gmail.com

Vestry Members

Senior Warden - Linda Lowe, 209-496-3937

lwlowe@outlook.com

Jr. Warden - Carolyn List,

Treasurer - Stephanie Gilmer (non vestry)

Brandi Anderson

Roberta Bearden

Sarah Hartmann

Chuck Sheaffer

Nancy Silva

Judy Teter

Victoria Winchester

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist at 10 am in the church and live streamed on Facebook

Children's Sunday School -online with Zach

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Visit and like us on Facebook

St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

