

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

March 23- March 29



276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801

Office 570-278-2954, Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:00pm

Click on link to email St. Paul's: stpaulsmontrose@epix.net

Click on link to go to our Website: <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

Click on link to go to our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call John Warriner at 570-278-2317.

Our Vestry Members

John Warriner, Sr. Warden

Lynne Graham, Jr. Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Wanda Peirce, Clerk

Vera Dunn

Dan Graham

Sandy Seeger



Donations You can scan the QR Code. Or go to St. Paul's Website and click the Donate Button for online giving. You can mail your tithes & pledges to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801

Church Closures

Please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

View from the Pulpit: Father Bill

“In God We Trust”

The 2nd Sunday of Lent brings into our midst the word ‘covenant’. And we see it first, in the Book of Genesis, where Abraham is tied to a covenant with Yahweh. Both Abraham and Paul in the second reading, to the Philippians, share a deep concern and even pessimism, that can only be abated by the God they choose to believe in.

For Abraham, there is no meaning to his life without an heir. For Paul there is only Christ, and another world different from the ‘godlessness’ he witnesses all around him. Abraham is promised heirs, as many as the stars in the sky, while Paul begs his Christians to stand firm, and believe in an eternal kingdom.

In the Gospel, from Luke 13, Jesus is also beset by those who oppose him and would want him dead. Yet it is clear, that he will not be moved from his Father’s work, until the time is right. Neither death, or threats, will move him away from the mission he must accomplish. He too has a covenant, and it will not be broken by the will of any man.

Everywhere today, we hear of widespread concern both in the world, and in our nation. Our neighbors are not happy, and in the country, half are discontented, while the other half celebrates. We have never been so polarized, and divided, as we are today. Yet, no one ever stops to ask: “Is it because we have become a Godless nation”? Abraham found no happiness, till he found his God. Paul was a murderer, and a scourge of Christians, until he found Christ. Today, when only the old attend any church; when religion is ridiculed on Talk Shows; when profanity, curse words, are openly spoke, on television and Film, when nakedness, and sex is openly displayed, we know one thing for certain. Decency, values, principles and honor are heading to Hell in a handbasket. Do not point fingers at children and say that they no longer have the values of the ‘Greatest Generation’! They have the values that we give them and educate them to today. Point the finger at today’s adults, who have decided that they have no need of God in their lives, and can get along fine without him, his church or his Gospel. Now step back and take a long hard look: we have a godless government, that extends to all parties; a godless education system, that teaches no godly values; and our entertainment industry and media is a disgrace.

Show me instead a James Stuart, a Ronald Reagan, a Dorothy Hart or a Billy Graham. Show me people of their standard, and character, who both loved their country, and their God, and clearly had a covenant with both. Show me! Show me a man like Harry S. Truman, our 33rd President, much admired as a statesman by all sides. Show me. Somehow, someday, sometime, we have to put God back in the equation of our lives, both personally and nationally. We must begin to love God again. Do not tell me you love America, when you hate half the population of Americans. Tell me that because you love God, you love all Americans, and in loving all, you love the values that are God’s values. Then we can all say with pride: “In God we Trust!” This is our covenant. Amen.

View from the Pew:

**Even though it is Lenten season and the Alleluias are not being used...
Tom Undercoffler wrote this beautiful message so that can we look
forward to his bellowing Alleluias in the Easter season!**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

What an uplifting word! Whenever one uses it , this word projects many emotions and feelings of celebration, happiness, and confidence. Alleluia. Throughout most of our church year, we end our worship with two "alleluias." We should celebrate and rejoice with the comfort and peace of knowing that our Lord Jesus Christ is always by our side, always being with us throughout our lives.

I realize that our services conclude with two "alleluias," but there I am, at the conclusion of our worship together, bellowing a third alleluia with the loudness of my voice echoing off the ceiling and walls of our sanctuary. The first time that I did this, formally being a Lutheran {Lutherans use three alleluias in their service} was entirely by accident.

But then I continued to do so to be sure that our heavenly father received all the praise that He deserved. I feel so thankful that I have a church family that really knows how to give God the glory and praise that He deserves.

Three alleluias! one for The Holy Father, one for The Son, and one for The Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

-Tom Undercoffler-

Sundays Service

March 23



Third Sunday of Lent

Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

This Week's Ministers:

Preacher: The Rev Susan Treanor

Altar Guild: Gaby Warriner

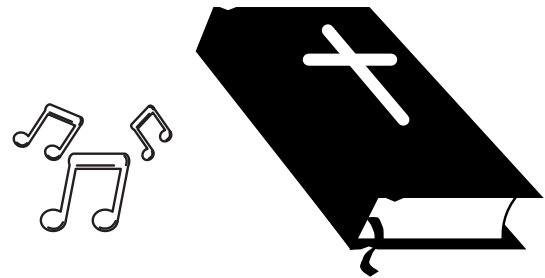
Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: Shelly Green

Hospitality:

This week's Hymns:

Lord, who throughout these forty days
When Israel was in Egypt's land
Kind Maker of the world, O hear
If thou but trust in God to guide thee
Rock of ages cleft for me



This week's Gospel according to: Luke

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

In person worship or you can watch live streamed on YouTube. Go to St. Paul's website

<http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org> and click this red button  on the front page, which takes you to our YouTube page.

Happenings and Announcements



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Harry Peirce, Linda Landis, Rich Nagy, John Pease, Rudy Mattes, Vickie Calby



This Months Birthdays:

John Finlon 3/6, Elizabeth Smith 3/15, Edgar Warriner 3/20, Elaine Petrzala 3/22, Ann Kiefer 3/22, Robert Kuhn 3/24, Tom Undercoffler 3/30



This Months Anniversaries:

No Anniversaries this month!

Our thanksgivings:

We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. Amen.

We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week may live out the covenant they have made. May they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love, and come at last to the eternal joys, which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them this day and forever. Amen.

Last Week's Service and Events

Second Sunday in Lent, March 16, 2025

"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood."

The live-streamed March 16, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by the Rev. Susan Treanor. John Warriner read announcements and Ellen Ely served as lector. Penny Jaggers played a prelude, 3 hymns and a postlude on the piano. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.



St. Patrick's Day

Everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. March 17th is the day that we celebrate it.



Spring

The spring equinox will be on Friday, March 21st this year. Spring has finally come to Susquehanna County. But we are a couple of weeks later than we were last year. These were taken on March 14th and the daffodils were already blooming. The same ones are just sticking their heads up now.



Egg Dying

We have always had a lot of fun dying Easter eggs for the Meals on Wheels folks. We are looking into doing something again this year, perhaps with the Square. Hope that you will join us.



Blast from the Past

Check this old photo out. Vickie has been a lector for a number of years as one of her many ministries. Thank you, Vickie.



EARLY MARCH IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." The turkeys are still flocked up, they haven't mated yet. Everything is brown, the grass, the trees, the fields, the deer. On Monday, the skies looked like a tornado was coming but we just got high wind. Come on spring!

