

# THE PULSE



March 22, 2020 Fourth Sunday in Lent

## St. Charles Episcopal Church

A church with a big heart, shining the light of Christ, joyfully serving others.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9:30 am-2:30 pm

### Guidelines for Sabbatical from our Building during Coronavirus

- 1) Please do not come to the building!
- 2) Rector's study postponed until further notice.
- 3) We will continue to have online services and announcements. Things are changing rapidly, so please continue to monitor our Facebook page and church website, as well as the CDC for updates. <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- 4) Our Building is also closed for the AA and Al-Anon Groups. Please check these websites for the most update meeting locations and information <https://aadistrict61.org/> and [http://www.niafg.org/home header menu/meetings](http://www.niafg.org/home_header_menu/meetings)



**LETTER FROM REV. STACY:** Dear Friends in Christ,  
The clergy in charge of congregations met with Bishop Lee on Wednesday, March 18th via Zoom conference call. Bishop Lee shared some practical guidance to us as to how to live faithfully during this time of sabbatical from our building. This sabbatical is a faithful act of our communities as we do our part to “flatten the curve” of this Covid 19 coronavirus pandemic. Staying out of the building and limiting our physical contact with one another will help slow the spread of COVID 19 in our country. That’s our hope anyway. And our prayer. And I know without a doubt, that God is with us guiding us through this time, which is new for all of us. None of us have ever been here before. I encourage us all to unite in practicing giving one another the benefit of the doubt and trusting in the grace of God to carry us through. We are all doing the very best we can.

Bishop Lee reminded us of three things to pay attention to during this sabbatical from our buildings. I am happy to say that we at SCEC have already been prayerfully working on these three points for the good of our church and our neighborhood:

1. People need community.
2. People need accurate information
3. People need a sense that there are things they can do that are meaningful and helpful.

### **People need community:**

Deacon Steve, our vestry, and other lay leaders are working diligently with me to help us stay connected remotely during this sabbatical time from our building.

1. You should have received a phone call from one our lay leaders who are part of what we are calling our Pastoral Response Team (PRT). I will meet with the PRT next week via Zoom and we will make a plan for continuing pastoral care checkup calls in the coming weeks. If you did not receive a call, please contact the parish office via phone or email and update your contact information with us.
2. This sabbatical is going to last a while. I am not putting an end date because I cannot say when that will be. Until we are able to gather

together on site and in person I will be leading Morning Prayer via Facebook live stream on Sundays at 9:30A.M. These recordings are saved to the page and available for future viewing. Bishop Lee confirmed yesterday what I already knew: we will not be in the building for Holy Week and Easter. I am already preparing to lead Holy Week services via Facebook live stream. Please note YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO VIEW POSTS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. Facebook will try to tell you to login or sign up for an account, but you don't need to do that. <https://www.facebook.com/StCharlesEpiscopalIL/> If you are in need of tech assistance let us know. We have a team of lay leaders forming right now to assist with technology questions over the phone. For the time being contact Kim Cole at [parishadmin@stcharlesepiscopal.org](mailto:parishadmin@stcharlesepiscopal.org)

3. As more opportunities are arranged to connect via Zoom or Facebook live we will let you know.
4. I encourage you to take the initiative to call one another. Jesus said, where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there! (Matthew 18:20). I think you will find this to be true as soon as you pick up the phone and connect with your brother or sister in Christ.

### **People need accurate information:**

1. Kim and I are working together to get a new email communication system with Constant Contact up and running just as soon as possible. This will allow us to produce more nimble and timely communications. So check your email daily. And when in doubt, do not hesitate to reach out and call the office, or contact me at my cell phone.
2. My cell phone hours are Monday thru Thursday 8:30A.M. to 7:00P.M., and Sundays from 11A.M. to 1:30P.M. for non-urgent needs. Emergencies are always fine to call me at any time. I will be checking voicemail at my church phone several times a week.
3. We are also communicating via our church Facebook page and group. The page is public, the group is only for approved members. Check this a few times a week.
4. I don't know when we will return to the building. But just as soon as I know, you will know. AND remember, that for the time being

the building is closed. If you feel the need to stop by please call the office or send me a text message to make arrangements.

5. We are also working on setting up options for making your pledges and other donations online. As soon as we have that up and running, we will let you know. In the meantime, please send checks to the parish office. We will continue to make weekly deposits during our sabbatical from the building. Because most of our income is made through in person Sunday morning plate offerings it is important to send your offering as you are able through the mail or an online gift. Thank you for your generosity.
6. I am aware that many people will find their income reduced during this time of Covid 19 closings and precautions. There are funds available for assistance with necessities through the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Please contact me for more information. These requests are kept confidential between you and me.

**People need a sense that there are things they can do that are meaningful and helpful.**

1. I know everyone wants to help. The vestry and I will begin meeting on a weekly basis to check in and discuss what needs to be done. We will be working on how to delegate work across the parish for community connection and prayer.
2. By practicing social distancing, washing your hands, sharing your resources these are all acts of discipleship. They are spiritual practices for being faithful in serving God and our neighbor. Yes, usually we might make sandwiches, or spaghetti, or visit residents of nursing homes. Now is the time to do something different. I encourage you to pray for what God would have you do at this time, listen carefully, and run any great ideas you may have by someone else before taking action for further discernment.
3. Above all, be kind to one another. This is a stressful time for everyone. Trust that everyone is doing the best they can.
4. By sharing our Facebook posts and live streaming worship events with your family and friends we are reaching more people than ever with the good news of Jesus Christ. It is helpful to share your faith with others who can use comfort and encouragement in these uncertain times.

In closing, let me say that I know for sure God is with us. I want to encourage you to surrender to this moment the best you can and be assured that God can handle all your anxiety, fear, anger, dismay, what have you. Try to find at least one blessing each day and write that down! Now is a great time to read your Bible. Always is, but now more than ever I'm experiencing the powerful presence of Jesus in our scriptures. Don't be afraid to reach out to me or any of your fellow SCEC peeps for spiritual support. This is hard. None of us have ever done this before! The opportunities for spiritual growth are immense, really and truly. So hang in there, let's keep focused on putting one foot in front of the other, and remember the faithful life is about progress, not perfection.

The peace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Stacy+

### **MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 VESTRY MEETING**

- 1) Communication with the congregation is a priority during this difficult time; read your email, check the Facebook page.
- 2) Services will continue to be broadcast at 9:30 Sunday mornings on Facebook; other platforms being considered. If you need technical help call the parish & leave a message.
- 3) Pledges & donations are needed & welcome in order to pay the bills. Please send by US mail. On-line giving is being worked on.
- 4) Free Spaghetti Dinner for March has been cancelled
- 5) Hospitality Committee being formed & charter has been written; celebration after isolation coming!
- 6) Progress on audit being made
- 7) Light the Way campaign making progress

**LIGHT THE WAY CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** Over the last few weeks the Light the Way team has been active in gathering information about projects and formalizing the campaign leadership team for the next phase.

As the campaign moves from discernment and planning to active solicitation, the leadership team has evolved to focus on this next phase.

- Bill Yeck and Erik Balisi are now the co-chairs of the campaign and will be leading the campaign going forward.
- Kristin Madden is now the campaign coordinator. In this role Kristin is helping to make sure we have clear tasks and timelines and helping to coordinate with contractors and vendors who are providing estimates on work.

Other people who will be involved in critical ways include:

- Rev. Stacy, who will provide general oversight and spiritual guidance.
- Treasurer Holly Parks, who will help ensure that we have the proper mechanisms in place to handle donations to the campaign.
- Parish Administrator Kim Cole, who will help with the production of communications and recording of pledges as they come in.

Finally, the campaign has met with two contractors and walked them through the building, discussing the updates that need to be made. They will be providing written estimates to us, which the campaign will then use as the firm cost estimates for the campaign. If you have any questions (or would like to get involved!) contact Erik Balisi, Bill Yeck, or Rev. Stacy.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

### **For Healing and Intercession**

Sherri J., Ellen D., Michael M., Patricia R., David D., Eloise C., Scott J., Irene V., Ingrid J., Vicki, Steve, Jim, Babette, Rosa F., Carl & Linda, and Nancy. We also include all those being prayed for by the Daughters of the King.

**For those who have died:** The Reverend Cynthia H., Kay S.

**For Comfort for those who have lost loved ones:** Louisa M.

### **For the Homebound**

Darlene G., Norma S., & Judy C.

## **For those Seeking Employment**

Jessica B.

## **For Discernment**

Tara O.

## **For the Church Commissions** *of the Diocese:* Congregations

Commission; Commission on Ministry; Anti-Racism Commission

*And our Companion Dioceses of SE Mexico and Renk*

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR MARCH 22, 2020**

[https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=27#hebrew\\_reading](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=27#hebrew_reading)

1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR MARCH 29, 2020**

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=28>

Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Psalm 130 • Romans 8:6-11 • John 11:1-45

## **CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**

### **Thursday, March 19**

8:00 pm Church cleaning

### **Sunday, March 22**

9:30 am Live Stream version of morning prayer Rite II

### **Thursday, March 26**

8:00 pm Church cleaning

### **Sunday, March 29**

9:30 am Live Stream version of morning prayer Rite II

## ***Prayer for the election of a Bishop***

*The Standing Committee requests your prayers during this time of transition in our diocese for those who serve on the Search & Nomination Committee and all who may be discerning a call to be our next bishop. Please pray for them during weekly worship through the election convention in June of 2020.*

***Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

### **Household Prayer: Morning**

Good morning, Lord. The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight, and I awoken from sleep into the light and grace of Christ. Thank you for this new day. Stay with me, I pray, shepherding me through all that the day will hold. Lead me into pleasant places and give me the provisions I will need if I find myself in difficulty or danger. Whenever my cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation I begin this day; in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

With the night, Good Lord, comes rest, and a chance for my soul to be restored. You are with me in this and every darkness, so I will not be afraid. For all I have seen with my own eyes today, for all others have helped me see, I give you thanks. For those things I did not notice: signs of beauty and kindness, evidences of your grace, I pray that you will improve the eyes of my faith so that I can see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and all my tomorrows. In the name of your Son, my Savior, I pray. Amen.



*Prayer for People Critically Ill  
or Facing Great Uncertainty*

God of the present moment,  
God who in Jesus stills the storm  
and soothes the frantic heart;  
bring hope and courage to all  
who wait or work in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make them the equal  
of whatever lies ahead.  
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,  
for your will is health and wholeness;  
you are God, and we need you.  
*-Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 765*

The Right Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop	<a href="mailto:bishop@episcopalchicago.org">bishop@episcopalchicago.org</a>
The Rev. Stacy Walker, Rector	<a href="mailto:RevStacy@stcharlesepiscopal.org">RevStacy@stcharlesepiscopal.org</a>
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## **RULE OF LIFE**

### **at St. Charles Episcopal Church**

Our Rule of Life is how we live the Gospel daily.

- ❖ Christ is the cornerstone of the church, and prayer is the foundation of our life together.
- ❖ We come together in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on a regular basis.
- ❖ We listen to one another with the compassionate heart of Christ and ask questions for clarification.
- ❖ We respect one another's stories by listening and keeping their confidence.
- ❖ We strive to practice forgiveness as we have been forgiven through Jesus' death and resurrection.
- ❖ We behave knowing God is in our midst.
- ❖ We seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.
- ❖ We respect the dignity of every human being.
- ❖ We actively build worship, education, service and giving.