

Good News from St. John's

May 2025

St. John's Episcopal Church
313 S. 18th St. — PO Box 882
Parsons, KS 67357



620-421-4540
www.StJohnsParsons.org

MISSION STATEMENT: With God's help we seek to share our love, fellowship, charity and faith with all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Some Reflections On Resurrection

As followers of the risen Christ, members of the Church and his body in the world, our primary model is that of Resurrection. This is an important point that cannot be overemphasized. However, it is important to recognize the balance involved.

Many times, we Christians will either overemphasize Lenten themes of sin, broken laws, the value of suffering, and a wrathful and distant God who has little tolerance for our human failures. On the other hand, many times we are so intent on avoiding the painful reality of our limits and failures that we want to avoid the reality of our sin and death completely and jump right into a theology of "and we all lived happily ever after."

Here are a few things to remember as we move from death to life, from Lent to Easter:

Death, like Lent, is an ongoing process of being confronted with all the ways that we are dead. Lent is a time when we examine our lives, values, and relationships through more intense prayer, study and fasting. It is a time in which we are intentional about dying to ourselves as well as killing off some of our self-made myths. It is a time when we come before God and each other and acknowledge all the ways that we have been dead to God, neighbor and self. Lent begins with the declaration at Ash Wednesday to "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Indeed, nothing we say or do or bargain with God will change the fact that we are finite creatures whose capacity to self-delude is much greater than our ability to be our own creators, redeemers, or sustainers.

Easter is God's response to our compulsion to be self-created and self-sustaining cosmoses unto ourselves. It is God's response to our inability to fix anything on our own. However, Easter is not an obliteration of death.

Once a person from a different church tradition confronted me about our practice of Lent. I was chastised for my inability to "be of the Resurrection and stop living in suffering and death."

I believe that such a position is a drastic misreading, and not what the catholic faith teaches us at all. Death has always been and continues to be a reality in God's redeemed creation. We see it all around us. After our baptisms, we continue to die spiritual, relational, emotional and physical deaths. We continue to find ourselves at odds with God and the world around us. We continue to wrestle with our own sins, doubts and fears. Furthermore, we continue to suffer illness and finally our hearts stop pumping blood and our bodies disintegrate. To deny this reality is absurd and, I think, unchristian.

As we leave the forty days of Lent and move into the season of Easter (which lasts 10 days longer than Lent!) we are assured new and more abundant life in the stories of the resurrected Christ. We see a living Jesus, once again in relationship with his followers and the world. Nevertheless, Jesus' wounds are still very present. When Thomas doubts the possibility of death and life to be tied up together Jesus invites him to feel the very real and raw wounds of his crucifixion and death. As we live lives worthy of the heirs of the Resurrection, we too will find ourselves maintaining old wounds from past deaths. This is because resurrection is not the obliteration of death. Instead, it is a moving through death with the author of life. It is reconciliation after disintegration. It is God's bold proclamation that even though death remains a reality in our lives, it does not have the final word.

Christus surrexit!,

Kelley+

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
April 13, 2025

Present: Father Lackey, Deacon Jeanine Blessant, Jupe Allen, Candy Scarborough, Anna Baker, Martha Stone, Carrie Tierney and Verlyn Bolinger,
Absent: Heidi Daley.

Fr Lackey opened the meeting with a prayer.

March 9, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Report was presented fraught with errors and was tabled until the next meeting.

Old Business:

Video System Update- Brian and Verlyn got the wiring complete and will find the time soon to complete the hook-up.

Prayer List- Martha has created an updated prayer list which can be printed for the bulletin.

Discretionary Fund- we now have it set up in an account that easily lends itself to a monthly accounting.

New Business:

Safe Church Certification- All background checks are complete and most certifications are done. Which will surely be complete before the next meeting, thereby avoiding the publishing of names.

Holy Week- A new Paschal candle has been donated by the Lackey family in memory of Father Rand Frew. It will be lit for the first time during the Easter Vigil on Saturday of Holy Week. A party will be held after the Easter Vigil. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite finger food.

Reports:

Priest-Attended the Gathering of Clergy last week and will attend the Chrism Mass on Tuesday.

Deacon: In response to questions concerning the celebration of the COMAP service when the Deacon is present- A Minister of the Word as well as a Minister of the Sacrament are required to be present. However the Deacon will read the Gospel, deliver the sermon and prepare the sacraments. The other ministers will, of course, fulfill their regular duties except the aforementioned ones.

Sr Warden: No report

Jr Warden: No report

Ministries:

Worship & Music: Discussed trying a new tune to accompany the singing of the "Gloria". We will probably try it sometime during the Easter season.

Fr Lackey said that since Sunday falls on May 4th, we would use the Star Wars Form of the Great Thanksgiving, otherwise known as Eucharist Prayer C, on that day. If this reference escapes you, please add your name to the Prayer List.

Outreach: No report.

Evangelism: A Block Party is planned for the summer before the start of school. Also, a project to build a new wooden nativity to be displayed during Advent and Christmas.

Communications: No report

Children's Education: The students are going to design T-shirts for the Evangelism team.

Adult Formation: The hybrid Lenten Study, which combines in-person participation with a Zoom type participation has been very successful. Do not be surprised to see this format offered in future endeavors.

Stewardship: No report

Buildings & Grounds: Scott is working on the gardens. The Handicapped sign has been replaced.

A list of plants and prices will be developed so we can get them planted.

Altar Guild: No report.

Endowment: As of March 31, 2025: \$95,861.70
(down \$4,230.00) Clergy Support: As of March 31,
2025: \$178,737.64 (down \$4,098.19)

Pastoral Care: No report

ECW: Will coordinate the Vigil Party.

Next Meeting: May 4, 2025 after church

Father Kelley concluded the meeting with a blessing.

Respectfully submitted, Jupe Allen, clerk



Prayer List

Jade, Bill, Jeff, Jim, Gina, John and family, special needs children, their families and caregivers, Jason, Anne, Sharon, Charles, Michael, Casey, Cayla, Randall, Melody, Joaquin, Rita, Linnie, Tammy. Nariyah and family, Michelle, Kathleen, Bretton, Olive, Lynn, Regina, Carolyn, Fran, Teresa, Antonio, Les, Michele, Becky, Cindy, Randy, Brogan



May Birthdays

6 Wuanita Tanner
15 Verlyn Bolinger, Sr.
17 Alex Meister
25 Brian Baker
31 Dennis Condon



May Anniversaries:

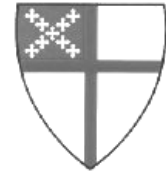
29 Dennis & Darria Condon

Please send Articles for The Good News to Senta Meister, sentabradmeister@aol.com or St. John's Episcopal Church, PO Box 882, Parsons, KS 67357.



St. John's Episcopal Church

MAY 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 The Third Sunday of Easter Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Vestry Meeting	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 The Fourth Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer 9:30 am	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 The Fifth Sunday of Easter Holy Eucharist 9:30 am	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23	24
25 The Sixth Sunday of Easter COMAP 9:30 am	26	27	28	29 Ascension Day	30	31

St. John's March 2025 schedule

	H.E. 05/04/2025	Morning Prayer 05/11/2025	H.E. 05/18/2025	COMAP 05/25/2025	
Clergy	Father K/ Deacon		Father K/Deacon		
Leaders		Jupe		Martha, Daria	
Eucharistic Minister	Martha	Joe	Verlyn	Candy	
Lector	Jupe	Patty	Candy	Alice	
Eucharistic Visitor	Patty	Patty	Patty, Senta	Patty	
Acolytes	Verlyn, Nola, Jaylynn, Livingston	Joe	Zoe, Ava, Jaylynn Livingston	Nola	
Greeters	Jupe	Candy	Carrie	Alice	
Coffee Hour	Help Yourself	Help Yourself	Help Yourself	Help Yourself	
Counters	Vestry				
Altar Guild	Martha and Bess				