

News from the Pews

The Episcopal Community of Southeast South Dakota

Christ Episcopal Church
Yankton
605-665-2456

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vermillion
605-624-3379

March 15, 2024

Palm Sunday: Christ Church is inviting our St. Paul's family to join them for a **Joint Palm Sunday service** followed by a pancake and sausage breakfast on **March 24th at 9AM**. No one needs to bring anything. A free will offering will be receive to defray the cost of the breakfast. St. Paul's will **not** have a service on this day, so mark your calendars now so you don't miss this opportunity to build community. St. Paul's members are encouraged to assist in cooking and serving.

Community Holy Week/Easter Schedule:

Mar. 24	Palm Sunday Joint Service, Christ Church, Yankton	9AM
Mar. 27	Tenebrae: the Service of Shadows, St. Paul's, Vermillion	6PM
Mar. 28	Maundy Thursday, Christ Church, Yankton	6PM
Mar. 29	Good Friday, Christ Church, Yankton	12 Noon
Mar. 29	Good Friday, St. Paul's, Vermillion	6PM
Mar. 30	The Great Vigil of Easter, St. Paul's, Vermillion	6PM
Mar. 31	Easter Day, Christ Church, Yankton	9AM

Yankton Contact Center Needs: Please bring in your donations to the Contact Center in Yankton and leave it in the basket in front of the altar in the Lady Chapel (under the organ façade pipes). Thanks for your generosity in the name of Jesus to our sisters and brothers of the community.



2024 Directory: this year's community directory will be produced shortly and we need your help in providing updates. If your address, phone number, or email address, please contact Cathy at the Pastoral Center as soon as possible. If we do not have your changes by **March 18th**, whatever information provided previously will be utilized. Also, if your birthdates and anniversaries are **not** listed, please provide those so we can include them in the directory.

March Offering Report:

	<u>St. Paul's</u>	<u>Christ Church</u>
Monthly Amt. Required to Meet 2024 Budget	\$4624	\$16,416
Received Mar 3	5,195.43*	566
Mar 10	1,695.79**	498
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Difference	2,267.22	(15, 352)

*includes non-pledge donor contribution of \$4500 (THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!)

*includes \$1,000 vicarage rent

St. Paul's Blue Bucket Fund: (to fund diocesan pledge—bring in loose change)

February Ending Balance	35.75
March 3	6.43
March 10	15.79
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Balance	57.97
Pledge to Diocese	1,000
Remaining Pledge Due	942.03

An Invitation to Composition Premier at South Dakota Symphony Orchestra:

Dear friends, We are extending an invitation for you to join us at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls, SD at the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra April 13, 2024 pre-talk starts about 7 p.m. Dr. Stephen Yarbrough's composition *Honore et Laude* (Honor and Praise) will be premiered in recognition of Maestro Delta David Gier's 20th season with the SDSO. *Honore et Laude* is the 24th work Stephen has written for the SDSO. Check out Maestro Gier's most recent award, the Ditson Prize from Columbia University!

Hope to see you there! Dr. Stephen and Janis Yarbrough

Easter Flowers Offerings: Once again it's time to ask for your contributions for Easter flowers at both church locations. There is a specific envelope for March 17th for those who utilize the boxed envelope sets. Otherwise, please place your contributions in an envelope marked for "Easter flowers" and place it in the offering plate with your regular contributions, or mail it to the Pastoral Center in Yankton. Please help us make our worship spaces beautiful as we celebrate Easter. Contributions can be given in memory or in thanksgiving, or to the glory of God, and just indicate the names or reason on your envelope so we can include it in the Easter bulletins. We have also added a convenient form for your use at the end of this newsletter. Please contact Karen Michels at Christ Church, and Judith Sebesta at St. Paul's if you have any questions. Easter lilies will likely average around \$8-10 this year. Thanks for your help in adorning our worship spaces for this great feast!

Combined Vestry Retreat: As our vestries change leadership this year, Fr. Mike is arranging a short evening retreat with Bishop Jonathan to help us live into the roles of the vestry/Bishop's Committee on Thursday, April 18th from 5pm -9pm with dinner provided. We have not yet determined the location, but it will not be at either church in order for us to get away and relax in different surroundings. The Benedictine Peace Center is not available on this date so we are discovering alternate possibilities.



All vestry/BC members are asked to book this date and time on your calendar now as it is critical that all members be in attendance. Thanks for your faithfulness and service!

Ministry Schedule for March 17th Weekend Liturgies:

	<u>St. Paul's</u>	<u>Christ Church</u>
Reader	Steve Yarbrough	LaVonne Lorenzen
Acolyte	None	None
Eucharistic Minister(s)	Sharon Andrews	Shann Doerr Karen Michels
Greeter	Stephen Yarbrough	Fred & LaVonne Lorenzen
Altar Guild	Judith Sebesta	Karen Michels
Coffee Hour Host	Open	Fred & LaVonne Lorenzen

Note: Cathy Unruh at the Pastoral Center will be compiling a schedule for St. Paul's for April. Please check your email at the end of the week for this schedule. Those unable to serve as asked to find a substitute.

Christ Church Altar Guild Annual Cleaning Day: The Altar Guild has their annual cleaning day on Saturday, March 23rd at 10:30am. New members are always welcome and it is open to both men and women. Contact Karen Michels, Altar Guild Director, or Fr. Mike if you are interested. Altar Guild members will do some light cleaning, polishing, and getting things in order for Easter and beyond.

West Vacant Lot at Christ Church: we have received and accepted an offer from the City of Yankton to purchase our west lot (between the church and the library) for \$35,000 and upon receiving approval to sell the lot from the Bishop and Diocesan Council. We will share 1/2 of the closing fees with the City which should net us somewhere between \$33-34,000 we anticipate. This will allow us to continue our ministry in our community. A proviso that we can utilize the parking spaces on the lot has been agreed upon so the church can continue to park there until development occurs. We are thankful to Matt Michels, Dan Specht of Vision Realty, and Bishop Jonathan who assisted in making this a reality! God is faithful!



**The Episcopal Community of Southeast
South Dakota
Palm Sunday Joint Service
and Pancake Breakfast**

March 24th
9:00 AM
Christ Church, Yankton

Please mark your calendars now and bring a friend, family member, neighbor, grandkids or others to join us for our joint service and pancake and sausage breakfast. We are asking our St. Paul's family to join us in cooking and serving. Nothing needs to be brought or contributed. We will have a free-will offering to defray the cost of the breakfast. This is a great way to start Holy Week and build community. Looking forward to seeing our larger church family gathered to praise God and share a breakfast together!

Easter Flowers 2024



Your Name(s): _____

Church Location: St. Paul's Christ Church (circle one please)

I/We wish to contribute to Easter Flowers for 2024 and enclosed or attached is my/our gift. I/We would like to offer flowers: (please specify)

To the glory of God

In thanksgiving for: _____

In memory or remembrance of: _____

Other reason/prayer intention: _____

Please print this form out and place it in the offering plate or mail to:
Christ Episcopal Church
Pastoral Center
513 Douglas Avenue, Yankton, South Dakota 57078

What is Holy Week About?

The liturgies of Holy Week

Holy Week is a week-long series of services that honor Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and his resurrection. We call this the Paschal Mystery, that through his death and resurrection, evil was destroyed and creation set free. Holy Week is the most important, most sacred time of the year for Christians.

Special Services of Holy Week

The season is marked with special services and liturgies, beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding with the Paschal Triduum. The liturgies are listed here.

Palm Sunday - Recounts Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and then turns towards the Crucifixion. Palm Sunday is the start of Holy Week.

Tenebrae - This powerful service is on the Wednesday evening of Holy Week. We hear the "shadows" of Christ' journey to the cross and mark this journey through the extinguishing of candles and relighting a solitary candle as a symbol of Christ's resurrection.

Maundy Thursday - This service in the evening recounts the Last Supper, which was the first Eucharist. We remember Christ's eternal promise to sustain his followers in sacred meal, and we wash each other's feet as a sign of service and love. We strip the altar and repose the Reserved Sacrament in a garden-like setting. We keep watch with Christ following the Eucharist in the Garden of Repose in response to Jesus' request: "could you not watch with me one hour?".

Good Friday - The liturgy honors Christ's crucifixion, his courage to live the truth even to death. We hear a passion gospel, offer special prayers on behalf of the whole world, and honor the holy and life-giving cross.

The Great Vigil of the Resurrection - At sunset, the church gathers to hear the stories of salvation from the Hebrew Scriptures. At the appointed time, the Resurrection is proclaimed and we rejoice with the first Eucharist of Easter. This is the highlight of the whole year, and if you haven't come to the Vigil before, you must join us!

Easter Sunday - Lots more people come to church this day, but in a sense, it's "just another Sunday," which means that, like every Sunday, it's a celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

From Your Rector

Dear Family:

Lent has flown by and starting next Sunday, Palm Sunday leads us into Holy Week. From Palm Sunday to the Great Vigil of Easter time seems suspended as we walk with the Lord through the Paschal Mystery of Passion, Death, and Resurrection. There is a distinct feel to Holy Week for Christians, and though we continue our daily living, something feels different and calls us to contemplate the journey towards death and resurrection. This is why the church offers liturgies for the majority of the week: to allow each of us to participate in the great events that changed the world forever. Palm Sunday begins with the great "Hosanna" to our King, yet minutes later we join the crowd in the Passion Gospel crying out "crucify him! crucify him!". The dichotomy of this day resonates deep in our hearts and we realize the role each of plays in the rejection of God's love and the threat of what Jesus preached and taught in the mission to change hearts and lives and heal our disconnect between God and humanity.

Tenebrae, the Service of Shadows, also walks us through the shadows of Jesus' agony, betrayal, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Maundy Thursday (Maundy from the 'mandatum' or mandate of Christ to love and serve one another) and Good Friday immerse us into the depth of Christ's suffering, death, and burial and it seems the world stands still as we celebrate and contemplate the silence of God. The darkness and silence envelope us and the world while we wait and watch and assemble for the Great Vigil, beginning in darkness with the sole light of the Paschal Candle leading us and standing in our midst as The Exultet, sung or proclaimed in the darkness reminds us that "this is the night!", while we recount the story of our salvation proclaimed from Scripture, renew our baptismal vows and are sprinkled with the lustral or Easter water, and climax with the explosion of Easter joy when the great "Alleluia! Christ is Risen" is exclaimed, bathing each of us in great and celebratory joy.

Easter Sunday is a continuing celebration of resurrection feast and there is something special about the day. When you enter the church, it just feels different and exciting and filled with an abundance of life and joy. When that first "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" thunders on our organs, our whole being is caught up in that joy and our hearts are glad and filled with Easter joy. Everything seems so new, so real, that's its hard to contain that joy! That's the resurrection power that flows from the cross, and engulfs all of creation. What great graces we receive on this day through our participation in the Feast of Feasts!

While I recognize it's not always possible for everyone to participate in the Holy Week liturgies, I promise that if you do the experience will deeply affect you. If you can't make all of them, choose one or more to participate in. Try to make the effort to join the community in as many of the liturgies as you can. Again, I promise that it will be worth it and you will be deeply affected in a good way.

Our community schedule is listed on the first page of this newsletter for your reference. Perhaps cut it out and tape it on your fridge, or desk, or bathroom mirror to help remind you of when and where our liturgies will be held and celebrated. Most of the liturgies will held after the work day to accommodate those who continue to work but also to remind us that the darkness of the week will end with Jesus' resurrection which breaks through all darkness and envelopes the world in

the light of that resurrection.

Don't forget to get your Easter flower contributions and dedications in as soon as you can. We depend on your generosity to adorn our worship spaces with symbols of new life through flowers, palms, and other decorations that speak to the importance of this great feast day.

Above all, I encourage you to fully participate in our life as a faith community and family, regardless of whether its at St. Paul's or at Christ Church. Building community and sharing together helps the world see that we are changed and transformed by God through our lives together. This is what draws others to our community and want that transformation for themselves. It only happens in community, and somehow God works amazing things through and in each of us as church. As Easter is coming, invite your friends, family, and neighbors to share in our liturgies. Encourage them to walk with us in Holy Week. Ask them to pray with you and for others. Help them walk the way to the cross with our community, from waving the palms as we sing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" and in nearly the same breath cry out "crucify him!" Bring them to Maundy Thursday and let them watch with you for however long with Jesus present in the Sacrament at the Garden. Hold them up as we celebrate Good Friday, and help them hear the great drama present in the Passion Gospel according to John and the veneration of the Cross in whatever manner they choose. If you haven't attended the Great Vigil, call up some family and friends and carpool to St. Paul's. This night is the most powerful drama in the life of the Church. Finally, offer to carpool or pick up those who may want to attend Easter Sunday and share that great joy of the day with them and our families. Most of all, whenever you attend, bear witness to the joy and tell your guests how much God has done for you! This will go far in helping people see how much life in Christ is something they don't want to go without.

Know how important each of you are to our community. Whether you are far or near, you are loved and needed in our community because it's not the same with YOU! If you are dealing with illness and disease, you are loved! If you are struggling, you are loved! If you are sometimes lost and uncertain, you are loved! If you doubt or uncertain, you are loved! You are loved by all of us in The Episcopal Community of Southeast South Dakota. And you are remembered each day in prayer, not just by me but by many others praying for each of you and your intentions every single day. Just remember that--YOU ARE LOVED! Also, do not forget: "if we're not willing to do the ridiculous, how can we expect God to do the miraculous?" Be faithful, be ridiculous, be fully human, and trust God to be God--always, all days!

Peace and all good!

Fr. Mike



HOLY WEEK



March 2024 Community Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Jimmy Crowe (BD)**
- 5 Chris "Lucky" Adam (BD)**
- 7 Lynn and Susan (W)**
- 8 Cathy D (BD)**
- 9 Matt Michels (BD)**
- 10 Shann Doerr (BD)**
- 11 Mary B (BD)**
- 16 Susan M. (BD)**
- 23 Stephen Yarbrough (BD)**
- 28 Cassie Plautz (BD)**
Lynn M. (BD))