



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

October 2024

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 6
MORNING PRAYER
LAY READER - Sam French

OCTOBER 13
HOLY EUCHARIST
REV. MIKE KYLE
LAY READER - Ruana Gladfelter

OCTOBER 20
MORNING PRAYER
LAY READER - KIRSTEN
HOCKADAY

OCTOBER 27
HOLY EUCHARIST
REV. MIKE KYLE
LAY READER - Don Kiefer

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Angels, aware and unaware

I am sharing Fr. Jay Sidebotham's column written for the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. The feast day (September 29) was moved because of a calendar conflict, but he said it gets us thinking about angels. He connected it to Psalm 103: 20-22 which "*mentions angels as just one of the ways that the Lord is blessed. According to the psalmist, they do the Lord's bidding. Today we observe the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, usually observed on September 29, which this year fell on a superseding Sunday. So the feast got bumped. Regardless, the feast gives us occasion to think about angels. The psalm appointed for this celebration (see column on the left) mentions angels as just one of the ways that the Lord is blessed. According to the psalmist, they do the Lord's bidding. Angels show up all over the Bible. Early in the Book of Genesis, an angel guards the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve get the boot. Fast forward to the Book of Revelation and St. Michael, the archangel, engages in a fierce battle. There was war in heaven. In between, angels show up at critical moments: An angel endows Balaam's ass with verbal skills. An angel meets depressed and self-pitying Elijah and tells him to have a snack and take a nap. (Good advice for any who are down in the dumps.) Angels announce the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus. A sky full of angels told shepherds to head to Bethlehem. Note: King James tells us the shepherds were sore afraid. Angels announce resurrection on Easter morning, again triggering fear.*

CHURCH INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 453 Clinton, MO 64735

GPS Address: 1837 E Hwy 7 Clinton, MO 64735

Bishop Provisional, The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, Diocese of West Missouri

Bishop's Warden: Kate French, kfrench357@gmail.com

St. Paul's Email: st.pauls.clinton@gmail.com

We see that quite often the opening words from angels: Fear not. What do you think is scary about that kind of encounter? Sure there's an element of surprise. But the appearance of an angel also suggests that things are about to change. No more same old same old. Transformation is possible. Something new is emerging.

The word angel means messenger. Understood as such, there are angels all around us, spiritual forces doing God's bidding, bringing us holy messages. Where have you run across an angel?

I do think that I've seen angels. Once when I was in college, I was standing alone facing a difficult moment, about to have a meeting to try to resolve a complicated relationship, praying about that, prayer as a kind of last resort. As I was waiting, a disheveled young man in dirty clothes approached. We exchanged pleasantries. Then he asked if he could pray for me. He put his hand on my forehead. I still remember the force of his hand. He prayed out loud for me. And then he left. Never saw him again. It was not the kind of encounter depicted by Fra Angelico at the annunciation (I wish). It was no vision of winged creature, radiant and sparkly. But I've always thought this guy might have been an angel. Have you ever had a similar kind of experience?

In the liturgy of Holy Eucharist, one of the most striking, even transcendent phrases suggests that we pray with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven. We're part of that heavenly chorus. (Who knew? Who me?) We're in this together. We're not alone. Together in this great chorus, we are invited to do God's bidding.

This week, keep your eyes open for angels, remembering that in the New Testament letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 13.2), we are presented with the possibility that when we welcome strangers, we may be entertaining angels unaware. And if you catch a glimmer of angel's wings, consider the ways that you might join them this week in doing God's bidding.

Jay Sidebotham

I Remember a story told me by St. Mary LaSalette, God-mother of our daughter Margy. Apparently when she was five, she was walking toward train tracks, unaware of the train barreling down on her. Family on the other side saw her approaching the tracks and knew she was hit.

But when the train passed, there she stood. Sr. LaSalette said someone had approached her and talked to her, stopping her. Of course, no one was there. Only a little five year old girls story about what stopped her from crossing the tracks. The family always believed it was an angel. As Fr. Jay asks, have you ever run across an angel?

Hopefully we will see opportunities in our lives where we can join the angels in doing God's bidding, wherever we are in our own small corners of the world. Maybe we will feel God's pull on our hearts

UPDATES FROM ST. PAUL'S:

Bishop Visitations: Our bishop visitations are finished. I now several of us were able to attend on-line or in person, and I think we all agree that the Holy Spirit has brought us four good candidates. The election will be during the Diocesan Convention, November 9, 2024. Please pray the prayer for the Bishop Search Committee daily as the Holy Spirit leads the clergy and lay delegates in this decision.

Grant: Our grant is almost ready to go. It has been submitted as a property grant and entitled "Safety Updates." Hopefully, we will get some funding for some our "wishes."

Community donations: The Clinton Care Closet and the schools were very appreciative of our donations. We really had a lot of school supplies and many items for the pre-school along with some high school shoes. Keith had suggested we remember nursing homes, and we had some lovely tops donated for that ministry. I took them to Adair and they were thrilled to have them.

Prayer List:

For Healing: Fr. Mike, Augustus Hockaday, Kitty, Tina, Don, Anette Anderson, Kathy, Steve Sheline, Linda White, Danilla Paul, Olivia Lim, Sue Hughes, Sidney Harrington, Gail, Cathy S., and Mark

Those with Cancer: Christy, Mitch Meier, Heather C., Rev. Jennie Ketner, Pat, Judy Edwards, Michael, and Cindy McAvoy

For Comfort, Strength, and Peace: Gail Cloutte, Pat Decker, Ruth Kindall, Doug Johnson, Kathy and Mike, Christy and Diane, Sue Hughes, Christopher, and Zaha

The Departed: Nancy, Bobbi Lewis

In Thanksgiving: Friends, family, and God's many blessings.

All others: Peace in Ukraine, peace between Israel, Palestine, and Lebanon, and Zaha, former Clinton foreign exchange student living in the midst shelling.

For the victims of Hurricane Helene and of the disastrous flooding in surrounding states.

For the victims of gun violence.

Our prayer for guidance in the search for a new bishop (Please pray daily):

“O Creator God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on us in the Diocese of West Missouri and guide us as we discern our call of a new bishop.

O Jesus, be present in our discernment, and lead us to a shepherd who will invite us to live out the Gospel every day.

O Holy Spirit, inspire us with your wisdom, and kindle our hearts with the fire of your love, that we may be renewed as we prepare to welcome the ministry of our next bishop. This we ask trusting in you. Amen

BIRTHDAYS

1-Barbara Crossley

17-Alyssa Gladfelter

17-Gregg Etter

ANNIVERSARIES