



The Epistle

June 2020

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

A community growing in Christ, called to worship, learn, and serve.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1** • From Fr. William Heisley: Our New Advent – Becoming. Waiting. Longing. Silence. A breaking into our world of radience.
- 2** • From Senior Warden Kerry Nelson: Staying Connected
 - Attention Key Holders
 - July newsletter deadline
- 3** • Minnehaha Food Shelf: How you can help
 - Adult Forum: Final Four; Looking Next to Sts. L & J
- Welcome to Minnesota: The Rt. Rev. Craig W. Loya and family
- 4** • Transitions: Our stuff: who gets what.
- From Treasurer John Heintz: Financial Report April 2020
- 5** • Oné! Respe! (Honor! Respect!): Learning to trust
- 6** • Episcopal Church in Minnesota's Response to the Killing of George Floyd

July 1st marks the beginning of Sts. Luke & James, an Episcopal community in transition

From Fr. William Heisley **Our New Advent – Becoming. Waiting. Longing. Silence. A breaking into our world of radience.**

These things characterize, to a certain extent, who we are as St. James on the Parkway in the spring of 2020.

Every Advent we anticipate the birth of the Savior, ready to greet him with joy. The Advent of St. Luke's and St. James Episcopal Church – Sts. L & J – will bring the birth of a newly consolidated, newly formed faith community as July begins. As with most births there will be a joyous sense of new life, new possibilities, and new direction for the entire family. There will be excitement about the possibilities that the future holds.

But there will also be a darker sense of grief and loss as we mourn the ending of the decades in which the world saw God's beauty shining through St. James on the Parkway. There will be feelings of longing for what was, for who we were. There will be sadness as we think about the good things that have been St. James, like potlucks, every pew filled for the Holy Eucharist, the ash trees that grace our grove, or our

participation in local food ministries like the Minnehaha Food Shelf and the Giving Garden.

And so, so much more...weddings...funerals...baptisms...and people. Friends, neighbors, eccentrics, spiritual leaders, parental figures, lovers, the hungry and the lonely, all sorts and conditions of people in need of our Beloved Community. We will recall hopes and dreams for a congregation on the Parkway that would thrive deep into this century, hopes and dreams that we will not fulfill. Because we cannot. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. And the Spirit is calling us with her clarion light and her gentle inspiration to follow another path.

We have been waiting for years to learn about the Spirit's ultimate goal for us. We have worked at becoming more and more a people who not only praise with our mouths on Sundays but also with our hands

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Our New Advent

and feet every day of the week. We, led by so many saints of days past, have given and done all that we could. And now it might seem that these things simply were not enough.

But: Satis est. It is enough that we have done all that we could to be evangelists of the love of God in Christ Jesus. Satis est. It is enough that we have struggled with unfailing grace and integrity to baptize infants and inquiring adults, and to teach our children, and to give deep care and concern to our sick and to our elderly. Satis est. It is enough because we have been led in all of these things to serve as our Brother and Savior Jesus served. Satis est. It is enough that we have been able to look at ourselves and say what many congregations are unable to say: now is the time to do something new. Satis est. It is enough because the Spirit has led us on every step of our holy journey.

Our something new is now our consolidation with St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Our something new is refurbishing most of our current ministries and endowing them with more participants. Our something new is looking with the eye twinkle of hope at St. Luke's current ministries and learning how we can not only embrace but also further empower them. That something new is launching new possibilities of all sorts. Dreaming them. Longing for them to be realized. Waiting in the quiet silence of prayer for them to emerge as the Holy Spirit sees to the business of leading us to the times and the places where our future will happen.

Our Advent is nearly over. A new birth is promised. And the promise is that throughout all of it the Holy Spirit, given to the Church at Pentecost, will be in charge. Thanks be to God!

From Senior Warden Kerry Nelson

Staying Connected

Hard to believe it is June and we are still worshipping via Zoom and continued concern for COVID19 and the impact on everyone. Despite all the uncertainties, there is so much for me to be grateful for which starts with Vince, our kids and two grandkids and continues with the community of St. James and the excitement of consolidation. Thank you to Beth for helping us all stay connected virtually since we are not able to see each other in person. It is wonderful to see so many of you attending the Zoom services. If you are missing seeing someone, reach out and contact them. It's a good time to call or email a fellow St. Jamesian to just say hi.

The new parish will be known for the time being as Saints Luke and James, an Episcopal community in transition or SLJ for short. We are looking for a logo to use with all communication beginning July 1, 2020, so if you have some creative inspiration, please send Ruth Anne Olson or Kerry Nelson your ideas. A permanent name will be decided on at the January 2021 Annual Meeting. More on that will come after consolidation from the Vestry and the Integration Commission.

Remember to reach out and make someone's day.

Attention Key Holders

Key holders, it is time to return your keys to St. James. Please place your keys in a sealed envelope clearly marked with your name and either mail them to the church to Beth Harvey and Ted Gerold's attention or slip the envelope through the mail slot in the 33rd Avenue/Playground entrance. Thank you for taking the time to do this.



Sts. L & J Consolidated Newsletter

Look for the inaugural Issue: July 1st

Submission Deadline: June 24

Send submissions to: Ruth Anne Olson, olson248@gmail.com

Design: Beth Harvey



How you can help

Thanks to the generous donations made to Sanford Middle School, the food shelf was provided with plenty of staples right now. But the need is always there and monetary donations are always welcome and helpful because they can be used by the food shelf to purchase what they need at the time. If you'd like to contribute, go online to www.minnahaha.org and click on the donate tab. Or mail a check directly to them at 3701 E. 50th St., Minneapolis, 55417.

Adult Forum

Final Four; Looking Next to Sts. L & J

By Tony Morley

The focus for Adult Forum through June will be open conversation about the past, present and future of our parish as we end our years on Minnehaha Parkway. Our personal spiritual journeys here can be part of the mix, as much as people wish. That, plus memories high and low, successes and shortcomings, of who's been who and all we've done together.

Fr. William will shepherd the conversations.

Adult Forum meets each Sunday at 9:45 on Zoom, then moves into Morning Prayer at 10:30 and Zoom coffee after that. Watch your email for any policy changes about church gatherings during the month.

Meanwhile, we look forward to continued and varied adult formation programs in the new parish of Sts. L & J. For the new clergy team Fr. William will meet in early July with adult-ed leaders from both consolidating congregations to plan for the summer and beyond.



Welcome to Minnesota: The Rt. Rev. Craig W. Loya and family

If you weren't able to watch the consecration of the Tenth Bishop of Minnesota livestreamed from St. Mark's Cathedral on Saturday, June 6th, you can still watch the recording on the ECMN website: <https://vimeo.com/425013333>

Bishop Loya also presided and preached at St. Mark's Cathedral on Trinity Sunday, June 7th: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=2933202536777373>

The Rt. Rev. Craig W. Loya, Melissa Tubbs Loya, Mari Loya and Asa Loya stand in front of St. Mark's Cathedral following Bishop Loya's ordination and consecration.

Our stuff: who gets what.

By Ruth Anne Olson,
Transition Coordinator

The first step is simple. Anything that can be put to use in Sts. Luke & James will go with us. Kerry Nelson and Rosemary Caspar are working with the folks of St. Luke's, promising to make those decisions by June 8.

After that, it gets a bit more complicated — depending on whether something is considered liturgical or non-liturgical.

Liturgical items are sacramental objects used in our rites of worship — altars and chalices being obvious examples. Per our agreement with ECMN, all liturgical items that do not go with us will be given to the stewardship of ECMN, often continuing their lives of liturgy and worship in other

congregations throughout Minnesota or beyond. Several people at St. James have strong ties to particular objects which they would like for personal use or display. If you think you would be a better steward than ECMN for a particular item, watch for information from Ted Gerold about a format and timeline for making your case. Ted will gather any such requests and will forward them to ECMN for decisions from their Trustees.

Non-liturgical items abound at St. James: educational materials, art supplies, puppets, sofas, books, office equipment and much more. Items that don't go with us to Sts. L & J will have several opportunities for a new life. First, they'll be offered to our partners-in-ministry: Minnehaha Food Shelf,

Bonne Nouvelle in Haiti, First Nations Kitchen, Mandala, NENA and others. Next up, sale to members of St. James or St. Luke's (through a process we have yet to figure out). Proceeds will go to the new parish. Everything left will be given to the stewardship of ECMN.

As you can imagine, there are a few grey areas in the definition of what's liturgical and what's not. ECMN Trustees are the deciders. Rosemary's taken lots of photos, and Ted's engaged in that discussion. Stay tuned.

The Consolidation Plan you received on May 15 contains lots more detail — so take a look if you'd like to know more.

From Treasurer John Heintz

Financial Report: April 2020

Balance Sheet

Net cash on hand for current operations (cash-total liabilities) was \$16,708, enough for about one month of average expense. Essentially all remaining cash is obligations to the Haiti Fund. Cash is tight, and will need to watch it carefully and draw from our TD Ameritrade brokerage account and make our budgeted Dahl Fund withdrawals to manage it. Please keep your pledges up to date to help us manage the transition—during the coronavirus shutdown you can mail them in or drop them in the mail slot at church.

Dahl Endowment now stands at \$313,537, down over \$50 thousand since last report due to the market downturn. **Haiti Fund** now stands at \$12,705.

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	better / (worse)
Pledged Income	\$37,778	\$41,520	\$3,742
Other Income	\$28,326	\$17,077	(\$11,429)
Total Income	\$66,104	\$58,597	(\$7,507)
Expenses	\$86,937	\$80,430	(\$6,507)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$20,833)	(\$21,833)	(\$1,000)

Operations

Operating Income YTD of \$80,430 was about \$7,500 below budget; this is mostly due to a rent reduction accorded to Mandala and not (yet) making our planned Dahl draw. Pledge income year-to-date was slightly over budget. **Please keep sending in your pledges to the office as you're able.**

Operating Expense \$56,999 is now about \$6,500 below budget in for the year. This is due to a technical adjustment to social security payments and some other miscellaneous things.

Bottom line

Our **current reported operating deficit is \$21,833**, which is exactly \$1 thousand worse than budgeted.



Bonne Nouvelle's walls continue to rise.

Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

Learning to trust

By Ruth Anne Olson, on behalf of
the St. James Haiti Committee

\$10,936 is the current total of our 2020 Annual Haiti Pledge Drive—in-sync with our 11-year experience of raising \$10,000 to \$11,000 in support of the basic expenses of our partnership with Bonne Nouvelle. This is good news. This is very good news.

The past twelve months had thrown several curve balls our way. First, a bureaucratic blunder in Haiti killed our hopes for an \$80,000 grant from United Thank Offering to build a new church for Bonne Nouvelle. Next the U.S. Embassy denied our request for non-immigrant tourist visas, forcing cancellation of the trip to Minnesota by four Bonne Nouvelle teachers and church leaders. Then the novel coronavirus forced anxiety and fear upon us all—among other things, halting plans for St. James April trip to

Bigonet. And through it all, of course, we've wondered what will happen to our partnership as St. James plans to leave The Parkway.

Repeatedly, our colleagues in Bigonet have reminded us to have faith. God will provide. God will open new doors for us. God will make us strong. We must learn to trust.

And here we are. Bonne Nouvelle's church is being built. Not in one grand gesture, but with snippets of money from near and far, with countless hours of volunteer labor and a deep sense of pride and camaraderie. Our own Haiti Committee is building new friendships with St. Luke's—looking to the future with renewed energy, excitement and hope.

Add the success of our Haiti pledge drive. \$10,936—every penny of which will be spent on priorities as defined

by the people of Bonne Nouvelle. If history is any guide they'll choose to help pay teacher salaries for their school of 300 pre-k through 12th grade. They'll spend it to buy access to the internet, allowing students and staff to be part of a global community of earners and learners. And they'll commit it to paying the cost of our monthly phone calls, the chain of chatter that keeps our partnership strong.

The virus is still with us. Health and safety in both communities remain in question. And we can't even imagine when we might once again visit in each other's countries. But to everyone and all who continue to give in ways large and small: Mèsi. Mèsi anpil. (Thank you. Thank you very much.)

God bless us all.

Episcopal Church in Minnesota's Response to the Killing of George Floyd

Continuing the Work

In this moment of agony for our communities, we find strength in the truth that we are all beloved children of God, knit together by the sacrificial, life-giving love of Jesus. However, we know that racism is a deep wound dividing the body of Christ.

Our call to practice the Way of Love means that we are called to true, deep reconciliation, to healing the wound in our body. For some of us, that means space to mourn, to roar with rage, to turn inward to our families and communities, even to despair. Those of us who benefit from white privilege must mourn and shout, but more than that, as practitioners of love, we are called to listen, to bear witness to the anguish of this moment.

The work is urgent and the need is great. As I heard in your ECMN profile, racial justice and reconciliation will be pillars of our life and work together during my time as your Bishop.

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota offices are located in North Minneapolis, a predominantly African American community which has and continues to be targeted by agitators and white supremacists determined to cause harm to our neighbors and to local businesses. We have work to do to figure out how to show up and support this community.

We are fortunate already to have a network of partners in this work, beginning with our neighbor Sammy McDowell, owner of Sammy's Avenue Eatery, which is co-located with the ECMN offices. Sammy's has been a gathering point for community leaders during this crisis, and we have much to learn from these leaders about how we respond with integrity and courage when our community is in crisis, and how we build a new future together.

We continue to call on our leaders for justice for George Floyd and meaningful reform of policing in this city.

We are grateful for the support and work that our lay and ordained leaders have undertaken over the last few days: protesting, helping with clean-up, providing donated goods, and holding vigils.

We hope that, as the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, you will join us in taking action and committing again to the work of racial reconciliation and justice. We ask all Minnesota Episcopalians to join us, as a start, in taking the following actions:

- Call elected officials to demand justice for George Floyd
- If you can, donate to organizations working on the front line of these issues: Black Visions Collective, Reclaim the Block, CTUL, COPAL, Black Lives Matter Minneapolis, NAACP Minneapolis, Voices for Racial Justice
- Donate to the family of George Floyd

White siblings, we have particular work to do:

- We invite you first of all to get comfortable being uncomfortable. Resist the urge to seek for easy answers, or to wash your hands of culpability.
- Listen. This is a profound moment of opportunity for us to learn about the experiences of children of God who have, simply by virtue of their birth, experienced this world very differently.
- Amplify the voices of people of color, particularly African American voices.

We invite you to continue to learn and to move beyond your comfort zone to understand your privilege. We've curated many resources over the years that you can find here.

Specific to rebuilding efforts:

- Donate to the Lake Street Council
- Migizi Communication: MIGIZI Communications advances a message of success, well-being and justice for the American Indian community. Support them rebuilding after fire.
- Northside funders group: Raising funds to rebuild on the north side of Minneapolis

The Very Rev. Craig Loya
Bishop-elect, Episcopal Church in Minnesota

The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior
The Episcopal Church in Minnesota