

THE LION'S TALE

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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MARCH 2019



Bishop Search Holy Listening Session at St. Mark's Sunday, March 3rd at 11:15 a.m.

The members of the Bishop Search/ Nominating Committee want to hear your voice. We are committed to receiving as much input as possible about how people in our congregations and ministry groups see our diocese, the work of the Episcopal Church in Missouri, and what you hope for and think we need in a new Bishop.

Facilitators will be Deacons Harry Leip and Chester Hines both members of the Bishop Search/Nominating Committee.

Here are two questions for us to ponder before our time together:

- Tell us one thing that you would like a new Bishop to know about your parish; who is St. Mark's in community and in your community?
- Jump ahead to ten years from now. What accomplishments do you hope the new Bishop will have led us to?

Childcare, including for babies, will be available.



*Please see page 4 of this
Lion's Tale for options for
March 5th Shrove Tuesday
pancake suppers.*

Loving and Judging

Of the many teachings in Jesus' Sermon on the Plain in the Gospel of Luke, two have been on my mind and in my heart recently. These teachings speak directly to how we, in community, engage in the ongoing work of erasing the borders of division and exclusion that seem so prevalent in our lives today.

The first is that we are called to love our enemies, a teaching that has caused myriad commentaries throughout the years, probably because it seems so antithetical to our human nature. *Love* our enemies? No, we'd rather wipe them out—or at least put them in their place.



Judgment of Solomon by Gustave Doré

But what does it mean to love your enemy? Does it mean to roll over and play dead, to excuse abhorrent behavior for supposed psychological reasons, or presume that we can hug the evil out of folks? Of course not. If we're following the Way of Jesus then we know that he never "loved" his enemies in these ways. How Jesus did it was to speak the truth in love.

Perhaps the best known of our contemporary expressions of loving one's enemies is in the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the movement for civil rights that he and so many others nurtured and empowered, which always spoke the truth to power, and always in love. By embracing civil disobedience as an extension of speaking this truth, never did the movement stoop to hate-for-hate, bruise-for-bruise, death-for-death as the way to the Promised Land.

What about us. How do we respond and engage with those we perceive as enemies in our own lives? Perhaps many of us have no "face-to-face" enemies to contend with, but more "in-our-face" enemies that attack us through disordered systems or government policies, or through 24/7 media bombardment.

Would turning off all of our devices and disengaging from social discourse be a way Jesus might respond? Well, admitting that I sometimes do find the need to disengage with my smartphone, I also note that Jesus often went off to secluded places to pray and recharge. Yet he always came back to be with people, to be in community. And maybe that is one way for us to respond to the challenges of our day in a Jesus way. To find the actual faces, find the communities with which we can engage and share the truth of God's love. Not *debate* God's love. But speak the truth in love—and not in judgment.

Which brings me to the second teaching: Do not judge. Every time I hear this teaching I am reminded of Fredrica Thompsett, one of my professors at seminary who, in addressing one of the basic tenets of our baptismal ministry, always said, "We do the lovin' and let God do the judgin'." If only that were true.

It's important to note that judging in the 1st century had much to do with gossip, and gossip—especially to the early followers of the Way and in the early church—was considered a major defect, a sin, that needed to be rooted out.

What about today? When we gossip—and I think we'd be hard pressed to find someone who hasn't at least once in their life—what judgments are we making about others—and ourselves? What judgments do we make on a daily basis that we may not even notice we are making about others, and situations, and things we may actually know little about?

I don't think that Jesus is telling us here to *never* judge. Too often, though, many use this teaching of Jesus here and elsewhere to mean that we can abdicate judgment, to disengage completely, as if that were actually possible. Indeed, we do need to make good and well-informed judgments about many things in our lives. Just as Solomon did. Just as Jesus did.

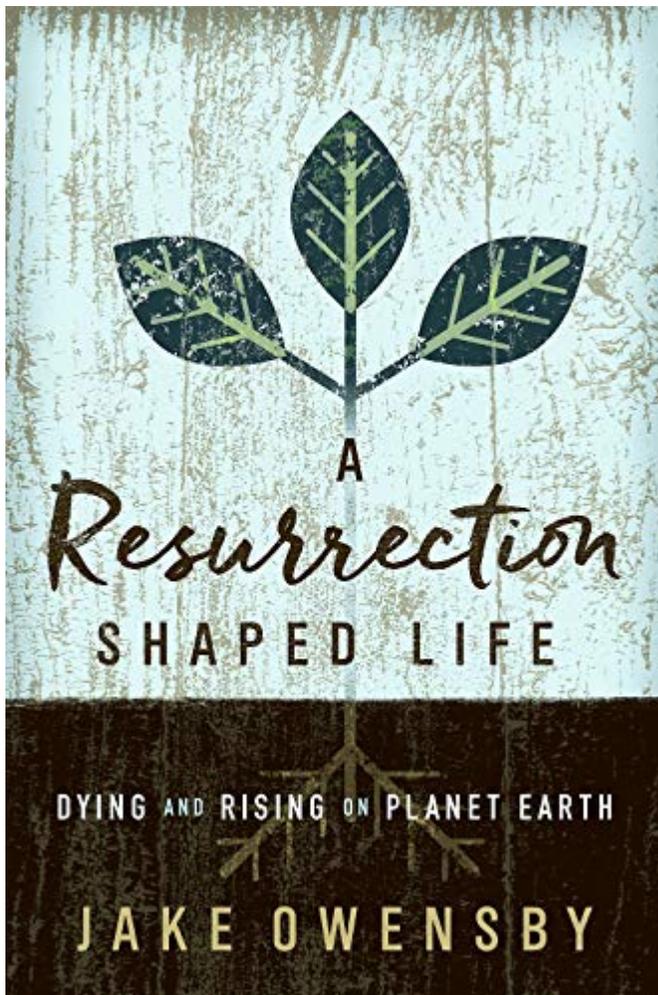
In a homily a few weeks ago, Deacon Jerre quoted our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry: “If it’s not about love, then it’s not about God.” And while this is true about all that concerns the church and how we follow Jesus, it is especially true about how we judge. “If it’s not about love, then it’s not about God.”

So yes, we are called to rightly judge systems and policies and actions that are clearly not based on love. As Curry argues, it is selfishness, not hate, that is the opposite of love. Indeed, selfishness is what most often leads to hate.

As followers of Jesus, as followers of the Way of Love, we are charged to use our good judgment, judgment grounded in love, to call out and challenge the selfishness we encounter, to speak the truth in love. And to demonstrably enact that love in our own lives, as best we can.

Knowing that we are not perfect. Knowing, too, that the One who *is* perfect love is right at our side. Walking with us here, in this community. Walking with us outside our doors. Walking with us as we endeavor to create that promised land of God’s extravagant love and boundless justice right here and right now.

Mark+



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT BOOK GROUP

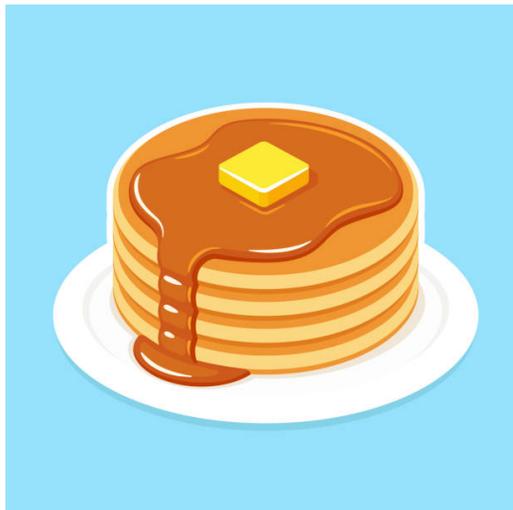
Beginning March 13 and then each
Wednesday thru April 17 @ 7PM in the Proehl
Conference Room

Join us as we read together and discuss
*A Resurrection Shaped Life: Dying and Rising on
Planet Earth*
By Jake Owensby

Can we begin to experience the resurrection in
our ordinary life on earth? Bishop Jake
Owensby says yes as he re-examines the
biblical concept of resurrection and how Jesus’
resurrection influences his followers every day.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall
where you can order the book for \$12 (or you
can purchase it on your own). Questions?
Contact Mark+ at: mark@saintmarks-stl.org

SHROVE TUESDAY OPTIONS



Due to the St. Louis City Primary Election on March 5th St. Mark's Pancake Supper is on Hiatus for 2019. Here are Three Pancake Options:

- **Isaiah 58 Ministries 11th Annual Pancake Supper & Fat Tuesday Celebration** 6:00-7:30 p.m. @ Oak Hill Presbyterian (see graphic below)
- **St. Paul's—Carondelet Pancakes & Karaoke** 6:30 p.m. @ 6518 Michigan Ave
- **Pancakes with the Smiths:** 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Kris & Jeff invite you to share Shrove Tuesday at their home: 4014 Magnolia Place. (*Donations received benefit Food Outreach*) **PLEASE RSVP:** 314-578-8180 or: ksmith@lindenwood.edu

You're gonna FLIP over



Isaiah 58 Ministries

11th Annual

Pancake Supper & FAT Tuesday Celebration

Live Music!

March 5th : 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Pancakes with all the fixins' will be served to make this a feast to be remembered!

Fun for all ages!

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
4111 Connecticut St.
South Tower Grove Park neighborhood

50/50 Drawing

Mark your calendars for this annual fun and entertaining evening to benefit the food pantry

S'Mores Station

Come and kick-off the Lenten Season with
Isaiah 58 Ministries
For more information call
314-776-1410




RESOURCES FOR LENT

2019 LENTEN MEDITATIONS

A free booklet provided by Episcopal Relief & Development is available during Lent at the back of church. In this year's edition, they "have returned to meditations from the last ten years that have touched our readers most deeply. In doing so, we were reminded that we have been fortunate to share reflections from many gifted writers, teachers, theologians and spiritual guides". *Info provided by ERD*

JOIN THE JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

A poster illustrated by award-winning cartoonist Jay Sidebotham, invites spiritual reflection and is a wonderful companion for the Lenten season. Posters are available at the back of church.

FROM YOUR DEACON . . .

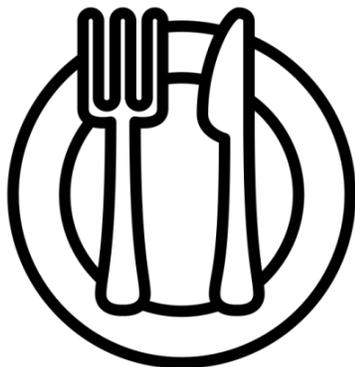
In our Ash Wednesday liturgy, we are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” A part of this observance is to take some quiet time to reflect on our own lives, to discern where our thoughts and actions are pleasing to God and other times where God may seem to be absent in our lives, our relationships, and our interactions with the world. Episcopal Relief and Development has provided a booklet of short daily Lenten Meditations to help us in this endeavor. I encourage you to pick one up. They are also available free on line at Episcopalrelief.org by clicking on the “Church in Action” and “Church Campaigns” tabs.

In these Lenten Meditations, the meditation for Ash Wednesday, March 6, is written by our Presiding Bishop. It is no surprise that he invites us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus as the Church’s ultimate goal is living out God’s love for the world. He writes, “Whatever you practice this season of Lent, either giving up something that ties you to this world or taking on a spiritual task or discipline, let it be something that helps you participate in the movement of God’s love in this world, following in the footsteps of Jesus and loving one another.”

We have another opportunity to assist our observance of a holy Lent at St. Mark’s as on Wednesday nights we will be guided by the book, *A Resurrection Shaped Life: Dying and Rising on Plant Earth*, by the Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby. Jake is the Bishop of Western Louisiana and was my parish priest the *first* time I went through the discernment process. I can personally vouch for his clear and inspiring teaching (including sound theology!). In his Prelude in this book, he offers the basic theme that “Jesus’s resurrection is shaping our everyday, ordinary lives. God’s best work is happening right now in the broken places of our lives. That’s what it means to experience a resurrection-shaped life.” Each chapter is followed by thoughtful discussion questions.

And I would also like to invite everyone who can make it to our “FIRST THURSDAYS AT RIVER’S EDGE SOCIAL” this March 7 at noon. At our first lunch we decided to have a basket on the table to collect free-will offerings. If there is not enough to cover the cost of lunch, my discretionary fund will make up the difference. If there is a surplus, it will similarly be placed in that fund. Remember - fellowship, food, and fun are not outlawed during Lent!

In Christ,
Deacon Jerre



1st Thursdays @ River’s Edge Social

**March 7th @ Noon
Everyone Welcome!
Fellowship, Food & Fun**

6997 Chippewa Street

Questions: Deacon Jerre
jebirdsong@att.net



WHAT'S COMING UP?

TUESDAYS 9:30 a.m. Al Anon Meeting in Parish Hall

WEDNESDAYS 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting in Parish Hall

SUNDAY MARCH 3 11:15 am Bishop Search Holy Listening Session

TUESDAY MARCH 5

~Shrove Tuesday - see page 4 for Pancake Options

~Election Day

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6 Ash Wednesday

TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS MARCH 13, 20, 27 & APRIL 3, 10, 17 7:00 pm Lent Book Group (see p.3)

THURSDAY MARCH 14 - Al Anon District Meeting 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY MARCH 16 - St. Patrick's Party at Kasey Paige (see p. 6)

SUNDAY MARCH 31 UTO Ingathering

COFFEE HOUR HOSTING



Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to host Coffee Hour which follows the 10:00 service. What's involved?

Brewing a few pots of coffee, providing a small nibble or two, welcoming folks for a bit of fellowship, and placing used dishes in the sink (No need to wash: our cleaning folks do it). If you haven't hosted yet, why not give it a go.



FEED MY PEOPLE - Please check the back of church for the latest suggested shopping list and donation bags. If you would like to make a cash/check donation, marked envelopes are at the back of church.

UTO INGATHERING SUNDAY MARCH 31ST

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box.

To make things easier for the counters, please count your coin ahead of time and either write a check(remember to put UTO on the memo line) for the collected amount or convert to bills and put in a UTO envelope. Thank you.

NEW FOR 2019 YOUTH HUNGER PROJECT

A la carte benefits:

Feed My People

Miss Carol's Breakfast

Doorways Kitchen



Accepting Donations of

Chicken Noodle/Rice or Vegetable Soup

Oatmeal or Breakfast Cereal Boxes, Beef

Stew. Bulk or Single Can Donations

Please drop off in the CARTE

in the Parish Hall

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

begins on Sunday, March 10th. Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead.



ST. PATRICK'S PARTY

Kasey Paige Assisted

Living

at 2:00 p.m. on

Saturday, March 16th

We need your voice to help

sing - *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, My*

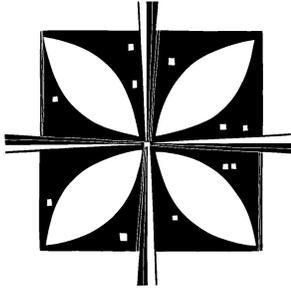
Wild Irish Rose, Pennies from Heaven and

more! Food donations are also needed.

See *Chuck (314)345-0298*. A Local

Ecumenical Outreach for Social Concerns.

VESTRY MEETING Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Proehl Conference Room.



New Ministry Celebration March 10th

The ministry of Christ Church Cathedral and their dean, the Very Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd will be celebrated at the Cathedral at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 10th.

Bishop Wayne Smith will preside at an occasion both solemn and joyful, a highlight of the Cathedral's 200th anniversary year, and the Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold, III, 25th Presiding Bishop will preach.

Expect a procession and festive choral music. Together, we will renew our baptismal vows, commit to our ministry in Christ and celebrate God's call to us. *Please let the rector know if you are interested in car-pooling from St. Mark's.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



DOORWAYS is always seeking volunteers to better assist our clients and staff. We currently have opportunities in the following areas:

- + GO! St. Louis Race Volunteers (April 5 & 7)
- + Game Night Volunteers
- + Cooper House resident companions
- + Spring cleaning volunteers
- + Crafting Volunteers
- + Annual Dinner volunteers
- + Bakers (provide special treats to residents)
- + Activity Assistants (go on activities with residents)
- + Administrative Volunteer (make phone calls, assist with mailings, etc.)

If interested in volunteering, please contact Patrick Young at 314-328-2707 or pyoung@doorwayshousing.org.



Choir Call

If you enjoy singing but are not able to sing with the choir on a regular basis, please consider joining us for Holy Week and Easter. We will sing on Palm Sunday (4/14), Maundy Thursday (4/18), Good Friday (4/19), and Easter Sunday (4/21). We welcome additional singers for any of these services. If you're interested, please contact Barbara Raedeke (braedeke@aol.com).

JOIN the **ALPINE RAIL TRAVEL CLUB** on a Trip to the **Grand Canyon & Santa Fe** on the overnight **South West Chief** on April 27 to May 5 for a Trip Flyer contact Chuck Doyle on 314 345 0298 or cjdoyle9051@gmail.com



Middle Eastern Dinner at St. Mark's
Friday April 26th @ 6:30PM

Co-Hosted with Hope UCC and Gethsemane Lutheran
Middle Eastern delicacies prepared by Middle Eastern chefs from Welcome Neighbor STL
Watch for more details

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 14 Palm Sunday
April 18 Maundy Thursday
April 19 Good Friday
April 21 Easter Sunday

For the St. Mark's Calendar, please visit our website www.saintmarks-stl.org and click on the calendar tab.

GIFTS FOR: LANDSCAPING & EASTER FLOWERS AND THE ST. CECELIA MUSIC FUND

I/we enclose our donation of \$ _____ for Landscaping & Flowers and/or The St. Cecelia Music Fund for St. Mark's Church.

Please list my/our donation as given to the Glory of God and:

In Honor of: _____

Or

In Memory of: _____

Or

In Thanksgiving for: _____

By _____

(Please write your name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin.)

Contributions to the "Landscaping & Flowers Fund" will pay for Altar Flowers/Decorations for Easter and enhancements to our landscaping. Parishioners who choose to do so may make a donation to "The St. Cecelia Music Fund" to support special music during our services.

Please designate my donation to:

Landscaping & Easter Flowers

St. Cecelia Music Fund

Please bring this form with your donation to church, or send it to the office by Sunday, April 14.