

The Episcopal Church of
SS Peter & John
169 Genesee Street
Auburn, New York 13021

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The Gospel Messenger

True Worship † Powerful Community † A Heart for the Lost



September 2024

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My dear sisters and brothers in Christ;

I sent this out as an email blast a few weeks ago. I know some do not have email so here it is again for those good folks;

I'm writing with some very bittersweet news.

I'll be leaving Ss. Peter and John to become the Rector at St. Matthews in Liverpool. My last Sunday will be in late August.

I am heartbroken to share this news with you good people. But the truth is that my wife and I need more income and full benefits etc. And as a full time position that is what this offers.

Please know that I was not looking for another call, but the folks at St. Matthews reached out to me. We met and it seemed like this is where the Spirit is sending me. There is grief involved in this kind of circumstance. And there can only be grief where there is love.

I love you people and this church, deeply. This will not be a comfortable transition, but as Julian of Norwich said, "All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well." God has provided well for you good people and this beautiful Church. Because of your faith and as importantly, your hospitality, this will continue to be a genuine "church family" kind of church.

There are many questions to be asked and many details that will be discussed. Those issues are not for today or tomorrow. You'll start to deal with that soon. For now, we share this news and just sit with it for a minute.

May God bless us in these coming weeks as we enter this time -

Grace and Peace,

Fr. John+

ON-LINE WORSHIP

Sundays - 10am Worship Service

Livestream on Facebook and YouTube.

Wednesdays – 8pm Compline

Livestream on Facebook.

Zoom Worship Schedule and Numbers

Tuesdays – 10am Bible Study – Starting September 10, 2024

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKSncyQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGIVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Tuesdays – 7pm Bible Study – Starting September 10, 2024

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKSncyQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGIVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

In-Person Worship

Thursday – Noon – Worship & Healing Service – Starting September 12, 2024

Community Room

Vestry Voice - July 2024

Present: Father John Rohde, Kim Brown, John Komarisky, Sue Burtless, Mary Kahn, William Abdallah, Denise Whalen and Terry Beyor

Call to order: 11:35 AM

I. Opening Devotional

- II. June Minutes:
 - A. There was a mistake in V. A. – Denise Whalen was also present at the meeting with Kathy Hobart and Megan Castellano regarding insurance. There was also a typo – it should read Chuck Hausman not Church Hausman; also, the insurance cost will go from \$20,000 to 12,000 per year, not \$20,000 to 12.00 per year.
 - B. Motion to accept: John Komarisky, second: Mary Kahn; all in favor.

- III. Finance Reports
 - A. Diocesan assessment is two months behind. The Diocese does realize that we are trying to catch this up to date.
 - B. Motion to accept June finance reports: Denise Whalen, second Kim Brown, all in favor.

- IV. Auburn Fire Department
 - A. Captain Quill of the Auburn Fire Department has approved the work done by Herrtronic for the new alarm system in the church. They still want a lock box on the outside of the church. John Komarisky suggested that we go to Home Depot and buy a lock box and give the Fire Department the codes.

- V. Insurance
 - A. Church Insurance and the diocese have received the letter that was requested. Lianne Limoli from Church Insurance stated that she will move forward with the changes. The savings per year should be approximately \$8,000. Father John will talk with George Kerstetter about contacting Lianne from Church Insurance as to the status.

- VI. Building & Grounds
 - A. The tree trimming has been completed.
 - B. There are two benches in the memorial garden that are being repaired.
 - C. Alvin Penird will be working on the hedges during this coming week.

- VII. Boiler
 - A. James and George Crolick have reached out with a proposal for replacing the boiler in the Parish House. They have offered \$4,000 toward the \$8,000 cost for this project. At this time, 3 other people have come forward with a \$1,000 each towards this project. We still need an additional \$1,000. A motion was made by John Komarisky to go ahead with this project, seconded by Mary Kahn, with all in favor.

- VIII. In My Father's Kitchen
 - A. There has been a problem with homeless people approaching parishioners as they are leaving Church on Sunday. There has been confusion as to how they should handle this situation. Father John knows the gentlemen in charge of In My Fathers Kitchen and he will reach out to him to ask him about coming and talking about how to handle situations like this one. He has done this before at other churches.

- B. Kim Brown has also suggested that we put together some non-perishable items and have them available to hand out to these people.

X. Closing

- A. The meeting closed with a blessing by Father John.

Next meeting: August 11, 2024

Adjourned at 12:50 pm

Faithfully submitted by Cathy Darby

Vestry Voice - August 2024

Present: Father John Rohde, Kim Brown, John Komarisky, Sue Burtless, Mary Kahn, William Abdallah, and Denise Whalen

Call to order: 11:20 AM

I. Opening Devotional

II. July Minutes:

- C. Motion to accept: Mary Kahn, second: Kim Brown; all in favor.

III. Finance Reports

- C. Diocesan assessment is three months behind. The Diocese does realize that we are trying to catch this up to date.
- D. Motion to accept July finance reports: John Komarisky; second Denise Whalen, all in favor.

IV. Insurance

- B. George Kerstetter was to contact Lianne from Church Insurance as to the status.

V. Building & Grounds

- D. The landscaping by Locust Hill has been completed.
- E. The sign on the corner is down at Custom Signs Express for repair. Bill Abdallah and John Komarisky will check with them as to the status
- F. Mary Riley has someone who is interested in being buried in the Memorial Garden. She will stop in and pick up information on the cost and the requirements to be able to do this.

VI. Boiler

- B. Bill Abdallah will check with Chuck Hausman on the status of this project so he can then inform the Crolick brothers.

VII. Covenant of Understanding

C. This document must be signed by the Wardens of the Parish and the Vestry has to acknowledge that this has been done. John Komarisky made a motion to acknowledge this signing, seconded by Bill Abdallah, with all in agreement.

VIII. Replacement for Sue Burtless

A. Sue Burtless has requested to leave the vestry as it is hard for her to really interact via Zoom. Denise Whalen has someone that may be interested. She will contact them and ascertain if this is the case.

IX. Convention

A. Convention will be October 19th. The diocese is planning on holding convention here at Saints Peter and John. We are trying to get more information about what we will be required to do. The Soup Kitchen will need to serve meals out the back door on James Street. New Jerusalem will need to be informed in case the meeting will interfere with their worship service.

X. Sunday School

A. Denise Whalen would like to purchase a manger scene for Sunday School and was wondering if the cost could come from the May Osborne Youth Fund. As this fund was specifically set up for the youth of the parish, this cost could be funded.

XI. Closing

A. The meeting closed with a blessing by Father John.

Next meeting: September 8, 2024

Adjourned at 12:15 pm

Faithfully submitted by Cathy Darby



Sunday School -10:00 am in the community room

Denise Whalen will be leading Sunday School on September 15, and September 22. Children may be dropped off in the community room before the 10:00 am service and will come back into the church during the announcements so that they can attend the Eucharist.



Ice Cream Social

September 15, 2024

11:00 pm

The Sunday School will be
Serving



Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer Workshop

September 14, 2024

9:00 am – noon

Community Room



New e-mail account

secretary@peterandjohnepiscopal.org

Please use the above e-mail address going forward.



The clothes closet is in need of men's clothing – especially summer items. The clothes closet is open Monday and Wednesday from 11:00am to 12:30pm.



Volunteers are needed to be Readers at the 8:00am and 10:00am services. If this is something you think you would be interested in, please call the office and leave your information and someone will contact you.



Worship & Healing Service

Starting September 12, 2024

Community Room

Noon



Bible Study

Starting September 10, 2024

10:00 am and 7:00 pm via Zoom

Choosing to abide (John 6:56-69)

Katie Hines-Shah

Katie Hines-Shah is senior pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale, Illinois.

One August years ago I saw a great commercial. A father makes his way merrily down the aisles of an office supply store while his sullen children trod behind him. As he skips, he fills the cart with school supplies: folders and pencils, erasers and pens, paper. In the background plays a familiar refrain: "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" The back-to-school season is upon us.

Times have changed. While I feel the same joy as that televised father as my children begin school, I don't have to make the same choices between school supplies as the man in the commercial. Gone are the days of hunting down paper and pencils. I did not search the circulars for coupons for compasses. Nary a ruler or calculator crossed my path. I simply wrote a check to the PTA and the items were delivered to our home.

But there are still choices to make. Students have to make choices at school, academic, social, and otherwise. Adults face decisions about budgets and commitments, about the balance of work and family and leisure. The church itself will offer an array of opportunities for study and enrichment, for worship and service. And before we make such choices, we would do well to hear the call of the gospel.

This last reading from the bread of life discourse places Jesus' disciples at a crossroads. This has been a hard slog for Jesus' original audience, as it has been for lectionary preachers. The previous selection highlighted the people's disgruntled response. Now things are getting more personal. Jesus' own disciples complain, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" They have to choose whether to follow, and so do we.

It isn't easy. Making the choice for God and all God offers is the commitment not of an hour or a day but a lifetime. When parents bring their child to the waters of baptism, when a confirmand makes her promise before God and family, when an individual joins the church—I remind them that faith won't be easy. Jesus tells the people that to believe in him, to trust in him, means they must "abide" in him, they must stay. It's a hard path to follow. Many lose their way.

John's Gospel is clear: "Many of Jesus' disciples turned back and no longer went about with him." Even people among those who originally chose discipleship changed their minds. Which goes to show that making the choice for God isn't just something we can do once. We must do it every day, our whole life long. We must abide.

Anything worthwhile requires abiding. An alcoholic in recovery can't have just one drink. In marriage a couple pledges to remain together "for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health." New high school graduates admitted to college have to keep studying to keep their scholarships. Athletes train hard, often year-round, to stay in the game.

And no matter what our goals are, no matter how sincere we are in our promises to ourselves or others, most of us will make a mistake. Sometimes that failure cannot be overcome. When it comes to faith, however, making the wrong choice is not the end of the story. Not according to this gospel reading.

As Jesus looks out over his disciples he admits that following him, leading a life of faith, ultimately isn't really our choice at all. He says, "no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Our decision for God is superseded by God's decision for us. Peter puts it plainly: "Lord, to whom can we go?" There is no other choice.

In "The Love of God and Affliction," Simone Weil asserts that humanity once was able to walk away from God, but Jesus' crucifixion changes everything: "As for us, we are nailed in place, free only to direct our gaze." We can choose to look up at Jesus or away—to accept or reject the challenge and the promise of the cross and what Peter calls the "words of eternal life" that are always calling to us.

What might our lives look like if we claimed this promise? What if we chose to abide in Jesus? What if we were no longer afraid of difficult teachings? Would we associate with different people? Would we do different things with our time? Would we spend our money in a different way? Would we treat a spouse, a child, or a neighbor, a teammate or classmate with more dignity and grace? Might we look at ourselves anew?

Fall could be the most wonderful time of the year for children and adults alike. We get to make the choice.



Calendar of Events for September 2024

Sundays:	8:00 am	Mass
	10:00 am	Mass w/Music – Livestreaming
	12:30 pm	Centering Prayer – Beginning Sept 8
Mondays:	11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Clothes Closet
	11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Soup Kitchen
Tuesdays:	11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Soup Kitchen
	10:00 am	Bible Study via Zoom – Starting Sept 10
	7:00 pm	Bible Study via Zoom – Starting Sept 10
Wednesdays:	11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Clothes Closet
	11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Soup Kitchen
	8:00 pm	Compline - Facebook
Thursdays:	12:00 Noon	Worship & Healing Service – In-Person - Community Room Starting Sept 12
Fridays:		
Saturdays:	11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Soup Kitchen



Mon., Sept. 2 nd		Office Closed – Labor Day
Sun., Sept. 8 th	11:00 am	Vestry Meeting
Sat., Sept. 14 th	9:00 am – noon	Centering Prayer Workshop
Sun., Sept. 15 th	10:00 am	Sunday School
Sun., Sept. 15 th	11:00 am	Ice Cream Social
Sun., Sept. 22 nd	10:00 am	Sunday School

Jan. – July 2024 - Actual vs. Budget

		<u>Jan-July 2024</u>	<u>Budget</u>
INCOME	Offerings	70,682.49	58,175.88
	Other	14,489.13	13,632.50
	Legacies/Bequests	-	-
Total Income		<u>\$ 85,171.62</u>	<u>\$ 71,808.38</u>
EXPENSE	Gas, Electric, water, sewer	15,456.23	13,562.50
	Salary & Benefits	65,686.53	82,669.79
	Insurance	11,262.00	11,712.19
	Other	13,169.05	20,119.47
Total Expense		<u>\$ 105,573.81</u>	<u>\$ 128,063.95</u>
	sale/purchase of securities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Net Income	<u>\$(20,402.19)</u>	<u>\$(56,255.57)</u>