November 2026

The Good News

A Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Louisville, Kentucky

Wherever we are, this is how we love God and God's People



From the Rector's Study

Fr. Andrew, Rector

Beloved,

It's sweater weather! As much as I enjoy layering for the season, part of me now whines about it. It's too heavy, and it makes me clumsy. The cold air hurts my ears! And I don't like constantly putting my jacket on and taking it off!

Funny, it wasn't long ago that I complained about the heat, the sweat, and, most annoyingly, those obnoxious MOSQUITOES that seem entitled to my sacred temple! Oh, they drive me absolutely crazy! Whenever I sing *All Things Bright and Beautiful,* I always mutter under my breath, "Except YOU, evil creatures!"

And yet, as the weather cools and I look toward the cold days ahead, my heart

feels strangely melancholy about those mosquitoes disappearing. After all, I'm not looking forward to the brutal winter, either! I'm the kind of person who wants to crank up the AC in the summer, freeze myself, and curl up under a warm blanket. Then, in the winter, I want to turn up the heat until my cheeks turn red, open the window to let in the cold breeze, and enjoy a bowl of ice cream!

My mind always works like this. It's either too hot or too cold, too dry or too muggy, too sunny or too dark. Never satisfied! I can just imagine God rolling his eyes and shaking his head at my perpetual whining. As we approach Christ the King Sunday (November 22), the final Sunday of the liturgical year, I've been thinking about how easily our attention becomes consumed by what we don't like rather than what we have been given.

Have you ever heard of the Ignatian spirituality of consolation and desolation? St. Ignatius teaches us to pay attention not only to what occupies our minds, but also to where our thoughts and feelings are leading us. Are they drawing us closer to God and one another? Or are they pulling us toward resentment, isolation, and despair?

I first learned about Ignatian spirituality in seminary from a mentor who noticed that my faith was drowning in what felt like a dark night of the soul.
I pointed fingers at everything wrong with the world, but rarely looked at myself. I was exhausted, miserable, and desperately trying to make God sit next to me, hold my hands, and tell me that I was right!

Like my complaints about the weather, I remember thinking how much better the world would be if it were a little more this and a little less that.
Oh, I became so petty after a while! And the worst part? I had absolutely no clue! Looking back, I realize I had been asking God to change everything around me without letting God change anything within me. My mentor helped me begin to recognize that difference, and I remain forever grateful for that introduction to the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.

Perhaps that is one of Thanksgiving's invitations. Not simply to count our blessings, but to become more attentive to them. Not simply to ask God to make our lives more comfortable, but to become more willing to let God transform us. And perhaps that is also a

fitting way to approach Christ the King Sunday. After all, proclaiming Christ as King means recognizing that God does not exist to serve our preferences. Rather, we are invited to participate in God's work of love, reconciliation, and renewal. And we cannot do that alone.

We are One Body, called to become Christ's hands and feet in this world. Each of us has something to offer—our time, our talents, our treasures, and, above all, our willingness to be transformed together.

So, as we enter this season of Thanksgiving, may we pay less attention to what is missing and more attention to what God has already placed before us. And may our gratitude move us beyond simply giving thanks to becoming a blessing to one another, even if that means putting up with a few mosquitoes! Happy Thanksgiving!

With Gratitude,
Fr. Andrew

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From the Deacon

Pete Womack – Deacon

In a sermon I delivered toward the end of October, I mentioned an article in the Atlantic magazine written by David Brooks in 2025. In it, Mr. Brooks presents a brief history of morality going back to biblical times and ending with our current social and political turmoil. He asks why we accept or fail to confront actions and words spoken by leaders that have been considered immoral in the past, and answers that we have replaced an older, community-based universal moral foundation with the pursuit of individual freedom and fulfillment. That pursuit of fulfillment breaks apart the universal moral foundation we relied on and we cannot let go of it even as the foundation crumbles. So, we fight endless culture and political wars to gain power and impose our individual concept of morality on everyone.

Two recent events have highlighted this moral chaos. Lindsay Clancy, whose trial for killing her children while suffering from post-partum depression ended in a hung jury, and Christa Pike, who survived a gruesome execution for torturing and murdering a classmate 31

years ago. Like other recent notorious cases, these two immediately polarized discussions, with everyone speaking confidently about what should happen next. Both events have disappeared from news outlets now focused on the upcoming election without any legal resolution or next steps. This reflects what Mr. Brooks is talking about, that while we appeal to a presumed morally just legal system, individually, we will not be satisfied with whatever is decided. We cannot seem to come together to discuss cases like these rationally and find a consensus without someone angrily claiming to have moral authority over everyone else.

At some point, we have all said, "That's not what my family did," or "We couldn't say/do that in my family." This is an example of a universal, foundational morality on a very small scale followed by family members. We have also had the experience of rebelling against some or all of that morality and the problem associated with it: when facts run against a moral directive, and upholding the family morality becomes irrelevant or contradictory to common sense. Jesus addressed this when spoke against religious authorities who were eager to point out sins against the laws of God. He argued not just that morality should be upheld with love, but that there will be exceptions that don't destroy the moral foundation the laws define. We dismiss exceptions using the slippery slope argument that sidesteps the mercy that Jesus calls us to. We feel that justice for the victim is negated because we make some sort of exception as we pursue accountability. Individualism gets in the way of scaling up a family-sized type of moral foundation to a community-sized foundation.

These two examples are in a morally gray area that is already difficult to navigate, and that may make them unfair examples of the effects of moral collapse. There are equally valid emotions and arguments from different sides which make it difficult to objectively tell what happened, and to decide what our response should be. But, if we had a defined universal moral foundation applied mercifully to these cases, the way forward in the morally gray area might be a little clearer if we didn't automatically descend into fighting over who holds moral authority.

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From the Organist - Choirmaster

David Paul Gibson – Organist - Choirmaster

November is upon us and what a busy month it will be. The first Sunday of the month is All Saints' Day, the fourth is Christ the King Sunday, and the fifth will be the first Sunday of Advent. And, of course, there is Thanksgiving on November 26.

On All Saints' Sunday, established in the 9th century, we commemorate those who have ended their earthly journey, and this year there are many. Christ the King was established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI to emphasize the true kingship of Christ following the upheavals resulting from the First World War and the end of all four monarchies in mainland Europe. Of course, at Thanksgiving we take time to contemplate our many blessings. Then we enter the season of Advent - a time of anticipation and preparation for the birth of Christ at Christmas. So much to experience in a brief thirty days!

Looking ahead to Advent, I leave you with this Dietrich Bonhoeffer from his *God Is in the Manger*.

"Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. Something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come."

Wishing you the joys and blessings of this sacred season.

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From the Preschool

Erin Dykes - Director

Happy November, St. Paul's Families,

Thank goodness things have finally cooled off and started feeling like fall! Our playground time is

more comfortable, and we can open our windows to get fresh air into our classrooms.

To celebrate Fire Safety Month and teach the children about community helpers, we welcomed firefighters from Jeffersontown Fire Department Station #2 to visit us on Monday, October 5th. The children got to see a firefighter in full gear, talked about fire safety, and learned to stop, drop, and roll. The highlight of their visit was seeing the fire truck in our parking lot. The kids got to examine all the hoses and tools on the truck and got to pass through it to see all the equipment inside. How excited they were!

This time of year is always so fun to experience with our students. As I write this article, we are about one week away from Halloween and "All About the Boo!". As always, our students' parents and guardians have stepped up big to donate treats and trinkets to hand out during our trick-or-treat parade. We also have nearly 30 parents/guardians and other family members signed up to come in costume and hand out those goodies on Thursday, 10/29 and Friday, 10/30. Our Pumpkin Patch will also take place outside during the last week of October (weather-permitting).

Our volunteer readers have been regularly joining our classes for weeks now, and we are so happy to have them join us! The visits from Nancy, Judy, and Lillian are bright spots in our days and the children love having people read to them other than their teachers.

Our annual poinsettia sale fundraiser with plants from Goodwin's Greenhouse of LaGrange will be taking place in November. Robyn has order forms available to share with you, and we will be taking delivery of our order on Monday, November 30th. Plant order deadlines and pickup information are contained on the order form. We would love for you to support our program via this fundraiser. The poinsettias are simply beautiful each and every year—you won't be disappointed!

We invite any interested parishioners to join us for our annual Christmas Concerts. If you'd like to attend, we have two shows to choose from: Thursday, December 17th and Friday, December 18th. Our goal is to start each concert at 9:20 AM. We'd love to share

the Preschoolers' "Christmas Spirit" with you!

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FOR OUR THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON,
YOU MAY BRING THE FOLLOWING:

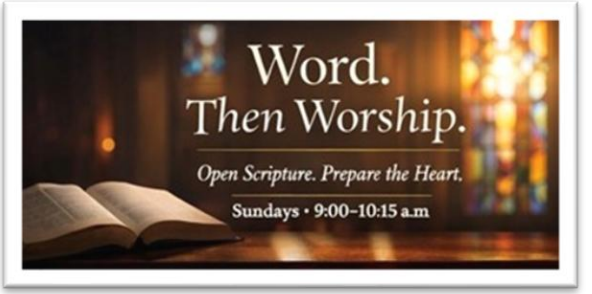
LAST NAMES A - D - DESSERTS
LAST NAMES E - K - SALADS
LAST NAMES L - Z - SIDES

PRAY | LEARN| SERVE | REJOICE

Pray, Learn, Serve, and Rejoice at St. Paul's

We Pray

Pray for All
During this challenging time, please be intentional about setting a time to pray. Pray for those on the prayer list. (pg. 13-14)



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We Learn

Ecclesiastical Bits & Bytes
Technology and Theology with Fr. Andrew



Technology and Theology with Fr. Andrew
Are you feeling intimidated with computer, tablet, and smartphones?
Are you frustrated with virtual meetings?
Greetings, favored one, do not be afraid for the Lord is with us. Contact the office to set up an appointment. Fr. Andrew will help you with the process.

Adult Formation (Sunday)

Sundays | 9:00–10:15 a.m.

Before we lift our voices in prayer and song, we gather around the Word.

Each Sunday morning, we explore the appointed lectionary readings for the day — Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel — listening for themes, asking honest questions, and discovering how God's Word is speaking into our lives right now.

This is not a lecture, but a conversation. Together we prepare our hearts for worship by dwelling deeply in Scripture. Whether you are new to Bible study or have been reading the lectionary for decades, your presence and perspective matter.

Come early. Open the Scriptures. Let the Word shape your worship. All are welcome.

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We Serve

Help Provide a Thanksgiving Meal

for

Calvary Episcopal Church Food Pantry

Grateful Hearts and helping hands make our weekly food drive a success!

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, please consider donating items to help families in need enjoy a special holiday meal. Suggested donations include canned vegetables, green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, mashed potato packets, gravy, canned fruit, cornbread or muffin mix, and boxed macaroni and cheese. Canned pumpkin and other pie fillings are also welcome. Please choose unopened, unexpired items.

Every donation, large or small, helps bring comfort, nourishment, and a little extra joy to a family this Thanksgiving. Thank you for your generosity!

Please join us at St. Paul's Episcopal Church each Sunday from 9 am – 12 pm for the Sunday Service food and/or monetary donations collection.

All food is counted and delivered to Calvary on Thursday morning after collection. If you would like to volunteer to help with driving and delivery, contact Ray Brown or David Dawkins.

Current Total: 211,040 items donated.

St. Paul's parish has generously donated $$22,277.75 to the Calvary Food pantry since June 2020. Make checks payable to St. Paul's**. Christ's love through service to our community!**

Room In the Inn (RITI)

Room In the Inn is a community ministry that provides overnight shelter for unhoused men and women during January and February. This local ministry was established in 2025 at Christ Church Cathedral and will be begin again in January. This program is modeled upon Nashville's successful program which began in 1985.

Louisville has, at any one time, 1,800 individuals experiencing homelessness.

Volunteers staff the shelters (First Unitarian Church for men and Christ Church Cathedral for women) between the hours of 5 pm and 7 am (broken down into shifts that have at least 2 volunteers per shift).

St. Paul's has had volunteers for the entirety of this Louisville program and will be seeking volunteers again this season. Everyone will be trained ahead of time.

If you would like to volunteer for this meaningful program, or have questions, please see either Cindy Miner or Judy Gradl.

Presentation on Sunday, November 1, 2026
Immediately after 10:30 AM Service

Featuring Guest Speaker: Cam Norman

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We Rejoice

Stay Connected with Saint Paul's!

Communication is an important part of a thriving church community! Visit our website regularly to stay up to date on church news, upcoming events, worship services, ministry opportunities, and important announcements.

Our website is a convenient way to stay connected with the life of Saint Paul's and all that is happening in our parish family. **Be sure to visit often so you don't miss a thing!** www.stpaulslouisville.com

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Important Dates & Reminders

Sunday, November 1 — All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 22 – Commitment Sunday & Luncheon

Thursday, November 26 — Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 27 – Church Office is closed

Sunday, November 29 — First Sunday of Advent

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please contact the office to include names on the prayer list by the 15th of each month. Names will be listed for 30 days (short term prayers) or if requested 3 months (long term prayers). Fr. Andrew and the weekday prayer group prays for each person by name every day.

Healing, Comfort, Relief, Protection, and Hope

Betty Wilson (Cousin of Betty Waddell), Frank (Brother of Diane), Rossmann & Yurt Families, Fahey & Brotherton Families, Brittany (Friend of Perry Neutz), Jack & Sabra (Family & Friend of Judy Gradl), Frankie (Friend of Alice Montgomery), Jack Frankie, Bill Schweitzer & family (Former St. Albans member), Carolyn Johnson (Mother of Stephanie & Grandma to Angelina), Charlie Thornberry (Friend of Sandi Pierie), Mary Jane Bartley, Lisa Hart, Vi Bush, Steve & Mary Combs (Family & Friends of Cindy Miner), Trudy, Vanya, Pam & Ian (Friends of Barbara Johnson), Jake Temple (Former Preschool Student), Eleanor (Friend of Cathy Meister), Markie J. & Meghan Neal (Granddaughter & daughter of Monica Bell), Kris Thompson (Friend of Carol Schusterman), Ryan Robbins (Son of Kathy & Rick Robbins), Cindy Taylor, James Knapple, Jim Watkins, Angie Nief, Gracie (Family & friends of Linda Snyder), Sharon Williams, Sandra Simms, Terry Jaeger (Friends of Peggy Pryse)

Serving in the Military

1st Lt. Cason Nelson (Son of Lance & Sharon Nelson), 1st Lt. Kyle Sears (Grandson of Arlene Buckner), Christopher Neal (Son-in-law of Monica Bell), Anthony Polio (Grandson Wanda Wiegand), John Phipps (Nephew of Ray Keller), Matt Hartmann, Luke Hartlage (Son of Linda Hartlage, preschool teacher), Jennifer & Joe Venghaus, Captain Erin Jones (Niece of Rex Jones), Jack Holzknecht (Grandson of Joan Holzknecht)

Homebound

Don & Joy Hauss, Lorna Larson, Donna Coliz, James & Mae Fleming, Martha McIntire, Vincent & Verbal Angelico, David & Loretta Roscoe, Alice Montgomery, Marguerite Davis, Louise Strain

Anniversaries
Lori & Kyle Smith (11/15), Jill & Dan Berg (11/26), Lance & Sharon Nelson (11/26)

Birthdays
Sue Benner (11/2), Geno Robinson (11/11), Fr. Andrew Shirota (11/12), Lee Anderson (11/14), Bill Brooks (11/14), Andy Phillips (11/14), Wanda Wiegand (11/15), Patty Robinson (11/18), Roger Davis (11/20), Janet Cull (11/25)

Leadership

Senior Class ('27)	
Suzie Aebersold	Senior Warden
Meg Mrozowski	Worship
Tom Yurt	Stewardship
Middler Class ('28)	
Connie Sublett	Junior Warden
	Outreach
Cheryl Young	Fellowship
Junior Class ('29)	
Jerry Powell	Secretary
Carol Schusterman	Formation
Penny Southwick	Buildings & Grounds
DMLO Firm	Accountant
Robyn Fischer	Parish Administrator
David Paul Gibson	Organist - Choir Master
Anthony H. Greenwell	Associate Choir Master
Erin Dykes	Director of Preschool
Joseph Reese	Aspirant Intern
The Rev. Pete Womack	Deacon
The Rev. Roger Walker	Priest Associate
The Rev. Andrew Shirota	Rector
The Rt. Rev. Terry White	Bishop of Kentucky
Email	Fr.Shirota@gmail.com
Web	www.stpaulslouisville.com
Facebook	St. Paul's Episcopal, Louisville, KY
QR Code to Church Website	

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LOUISVILLE, KY
EST. 1834

4700 Lowe Road
Louisville, KY 40220
502-491-7417

Return Service Requested