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**Rector's Ramblings**

It feels like I have been treading water this week and just trying to keep my head above water.

Nothing dramatic or serious, just a bunch of little things that seem to take more time than they should. And one particular little thing takes a lot of time and energy...



We have not decided on a name, but he is a bundle of energy and personality. We figure with both of us working from home it is a good time to train him up in the way he should go.

Yet, like babies, puppies don't quite sleep through the night and that has made me a bit slower each day. But like all good things it is worth it.

But I have found that it is in the little things that the grace and love of God are most often found and experienced. So often we expect a major "God" interruption of our lives, something dramatic to get our attention, but if we are paying attention we will see that God is always active, especially in the little things.

Grace is found in the gift of a 3:30 AM wake-up to take the puppy out and to stand in peace and quiet under the stars in a world at rest. Grace is in the gift of patience in those moments where a new interruption could be an annoyance. And grace is even present in the ability to tread water in a week that does not go like you, or I, would have planned.

May you know the grace of God in the little things this week.

Dave+  
309-660-8515

**Ministry Links**

St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield  
[Rector's Blog \(new\)](#)  
Find us on Instagram--stmatbsblm  
Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

**The Good News**  
April 24, 2020



**This Sunday is the Third Sunday after Easter.**

**Sunday Eucharist Outline is [here](#).**

**Full Service is [here](#).**

**Both bulletins have the music included.**

You are invited to stream the service from the comfort of your home prayer corner or the parking lot. For those who wish to receive, Holy Communion will continue to be offered after the Liturgy using the drive-way for reception. It is distributed in a sanitary and safe method as receiving a meal from a "curbside" pickup restaurant (gloves, mask, etc.). Holy Communion will remain available for 30 minutes after the end of the service. If you do not wish to receive, I commend the practice of Spiritual Communion, which can be found in the links below.

**Other streamed services this week.**

**Tuesday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer  
Noon Holy Eucharist  
5:30PM Evening Prayer**

**Wednesday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer  
Noon Holy Eucharist  
5:30PM Evening Prayer**

**Thursday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer  
Noon Holy Eucharist  
5:30PM Evening Prayer**

**Friday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer  
5:30 PM Evening Prayer**

**Service times may change as each day presents its own challenges. Facebook will be updated if a service will not happen at, or near, the time scheduled.**

NB--As the governmental authorities continue to update policies, all plans are subject to change.

As always, you remain in our prayers, and I ask that you let us know if you need anything at this time. St. Matthew's stands ready to help as we can.

Dave+

**Theology Uncorked.**  
Since we cannot meet in person, we will meet at 6PM on April 26th via Zoom. Please email Fr. Dave if you wish to have the Zoom invitation.

**A Couple of Links**  
[St. Bede's Breviary](#) (Daily Offices)

[Book of Common Prayer](#)

[Spiritual Communion \(Update\)](#) (An Anglican Rite).

[Prayer of Elder Paisios for the World](#) (I have found this quite helpful at the current time).

**From the Jr. Warden**  
The work of the church goes on through plagues, pestilence, and disasters. Those of you who are practicing social distancing and staying home can still contribute your tithing to keep St. Matthew's providing worship and other services to the parish. Weekday morning Mass at 7:30 a.m., Evening Offices at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. are being streamed on St. Matthew's Facebook page. You can contact your bank to have a direct check mailed at whatever interval you choose. You can mail in checks to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1920 E. Oakland Ave, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Please remember that Outreach is not able to hold the book sale this spring and will not have money to support Advent Chakupewa's medical education expenses or any of their other causes. Donations to them can also be made, be sure to note those special funds in the memo line of your check.

Yours in Christ,

Gary Ploense  
Jr. Warden

**Outreach Opportunities**  
**ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

**Advent Time**  
Advent is enrolled in year 3 of a 5 year course to become a doctor. He is the son of Bishop Elias in Tanzania. In US dollars, his tuition would be \$2,273 per year. Room & Board is an additional \$1826 annually. Anyone wishing to help Advent with his education can make checks to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church; putting Outreach-Education in the memo line. God Bless, and we thank you

*P.S. With Shelter-in-place restrictions, Outreach has extended their collection of support for Advent's Education to the end of next month. Your Office Staff*

UPDATE: Your faithful support of this Education-Mission project has been much appreciated! The Outreach committee extends its sincere thanks to all who have participated. Watch for new opportunities from your committee next month.

**Meals**  
Thank you for the generous outpouring of support for this ministry. The freezer is quite full at this time.

We also have packages of Tender Mercies meals from Midwest Food Bank.

If you, or someone you know, need(s) a meal at this time please let us know, or stop by the office when it is open.

**The Daily Devotional Reading**  
is available by clicking of the link below:  
[Good News Daily](#)

**Worship Serving Schedule**  
Thank you to all of you who faithfully serve in the ministry of the Altar. At this time we are suspending the scheduling of servers to keep you safe and to reflect the changing circumstances we face.

A service will always be held on Sunday, but the numbers allowed to be present will necessarily be limited. If you wish to serve at any service where you will be present, you are invited to do so.

We will resume scheduling as events allow.

Thank you again, and may God bless you.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries April 26 - May 2**  
*Anniversaries*  
*Birthdays*  
Diane Gardner

**Dedications for this week:**

**3rd Sunday of Easter, April 26th**  
O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Contact Information**  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church