



# THE VOICE

## Here Comes the CAT!

You may recognize the acronym for the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) or you may be wondering if you will find a furry friend wandering the building and providing joy for the Montessori students and the parish—either sounds fun, but the Vestry recently approved taking the CAT survey rather than having an actual cat in the building. (*Rector's Note: Sorry, Faulkes!*)



*We want to know **your** story!* We are excited to use this tool to inform our planning and visioning work. You may remember taking the CAT in the past, we did one in 2019 as we were preparing for the Search that brought Adam to St E's. The focus now is quite different, it is not about change, but rather about providing a snapshot of how members perceive the work of the parish and how we're feeling about the church overall. The questions are designed to look for patterns and to address several aspects of church organization, functioning and culture. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at St E's and the possibilities, willingness, capacity and energy for our next steps together.

In the next few weeks, you will hear more about the CAT and have the chance to take it yourself. We hope everyone will participate; each voice is really important. We need your thoughts, ideas, hopes, and perspective to give us a clear picture of what it's like for you, at this moment in time, to be part of St E's community, worship services, and outreach ministries.

Faithfully,  
The Vestry

## Lost and Found



Hello Friends,

There is a basket in the office with the lost and found items of the parish. Please feel free to check out the contents the next time you are at the church. It is in the office to the left of the mailbox cubbies.

Be well,  
Pam Green, *Administrator*

## The Warden's Corner

In our efforts to live our mission, to radiate God's love and connect deeply with our own and other's humanity, we are fortunate to have a variety of learning opportunities available in our parish and our community. I want to highlight a resource that has been very helpful to me and others at St E's—the speaker series offered by the Family Action Network, known as FAN. FAN ([familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)) is a non-profit organization that curates a high-quality speaker series, their programs are free and open to the public, the events are designed to inspire, educate and connect people in an effort to create an informed and compassionate community. The events generally coincide with the school year calendar as many of FAN's supporters and beneficiaries are school communities. Before the pandemic all events were in-person opportunities to gather and learn together. Now, there's a mix of virtual (Zoom) and in-person events.

I have many happy memories of attending FAN events, seeing fellow St E's folks in the audience, learning together and having follow up conversations at coffee hours and forums. When thinking about adult formation during the week I spent with Adam at the College of Congregational Development last summer, and in sharing data we gathered as part of our CCD project with parishioners during the “Forum on Forums” in November, FAN events came to mind as a wonderful way to learn in our community. During the November forum, the group discussed attending FAN events, either watching a Zoom together or attending in-person to share fellowship, learning and conversation.

There are many FAN events scheduled for April and May, but one stands out as a fun field trip opportunity for us—the amazing author, Anne Lamott, is speaking at Loyola Academy in Wilmette on April 23<sup>rd</sup>! This should be a really special program, she will be speaking about her new book, *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*. Even more remarkable, FAN will be giving away 200 copies of the book to attendees! Here's a brief description of the event from the FAN website:

In *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*, beloved bestselling author **Anne Lamott** explores the transformative power that love has in our lives: how it surprises us, forces us to confront uncomfortable truths, reminds us of our humanity, and guides us forward. “Love just won't be pinned down,” she says. “It is in our very atmosphere” and lies at the heart of who we are. We are, Lamott says, creatures of love.

In each chapter of *Somehow*, Lamott refracts all the colors of the spectrum. She explores the unexpected love for a partner later in life. The bruised (and bruising) love for a child who disappoints, even frightens. The sustaining love among a group of sinners, for a community in transition, in the wider world. The lessons she underscores are that love enlightens as it educates, comforts as it energizes, sustains as it surprises.

Lamott will be in conversation with Heidi Stevens, Director of External Affairs for the University of Chicago's TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health, and creative director for Parent Nation, an initiative of the TMW Center. Prior to joining TMW, Stevens worked at the *Chicago Tribune* for 23 years, where she wrote a daily column called “Balancing Act.”

More information about carpooling and who's going will be coming in the bulletin, announcements and e-reflects, but please save the date—April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm—and make your plans to attend this wonderful learning and fellowship opportunity. You may want to arrive a little early to make sure you get a book! Again, the details for the event: April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00pm at Loyola Academy, McGrath Performing Arts Center, 1100 Laramie Avenue in Wilmette, no registration required. Hope to see you there!

--Robin Lake, *Warden*

## Vestry Members Spotlight

Hello St. E's friends!

I am thrilled to be back on the Vestry for the 2nd time, since joining St. E's roughly 7 years ago! I really enjoyed my last term and look forward to serving again!

As many of you know, I am a busy mom of Carter (11) and Amelia (5), and our new rescue puppy, Birdie. I am wife to my Jewish husband, Joel (be sure to say hi to him when he joins us on Easter & Christmas!), and business owner of my own wedding planning company. We live in Highland Park and are enjoying the one year the kids will ever be in the same school together! This is when I'd like to freeze time!



When I served on the Vestry last time, I really enjoyed being a part of so many important discussions and decisions that impacted our small and wonderful church community. With the kids' busy schedules, I really appreciated the consistency of our monthly meetings – whether discussing challenges, hopes or enjoying fellowship & reflection.

Thank you for your support by nominating me to join the Vestry again – I am so excited to be back!

Kara Superfine, *Vestry Member*



Annette and I live in the Ravinia neighborhood of Highland Park. We have been there since 1991. Annette and I have had almost forty-two years together. We raised two sons. Our younger son and daughter in law live in the New York City area. Our older son and daughter in law, and our granddaughter live in Iowa. My family truly is everything to me.

I am about to retire. Currently, I work for an insurance agency. Before that, I spent many years practicing law in a variety of situations. Among the things I that really like are: film noir; Western Illinois; craft beer; railroads and baseball at any level.

I am glad to serve on the Vestry. Our church has its work cut out for it. Mainline religions are facing a serious challenge—religious belief is declining. I want to help us meet that challenge. We need to find ways to reach young families and young people in general. I sincerely believe that the world needs God, which means that the world needs organized religion. I think that need is especially acute now, in a culture that seems so hurt and lonely. We can find a way to meet that need.

So, let's work together. Let's serve the Lord by making this world better.

Fred Johnston, *Vestry Member*

## St. Elisabeth's Supports Misericordia Candy Days!

Misericordia Candy Days is coming this spring on April 26-27 and we'll be celebrating as part of the **Sunday, April 28, 10:00 AM service**. If you are not familiar, Misericordia is an organization that is home to over 600 residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities on the northside of Chicago and home to **Sarah Cline** who is sister to Polly & Jim Baur and daughter to Linda & Skip Cline and a member of our St. E's community.



**MISERICORDIA  
HEART OF MERCY**

St. E's has been an incredible supporter to Candy Days over the years for which we are so grateful. You are able to donate via the QR code & link below.



Thank you for your donation!  
Polly, Jim, Duke & Rocky Baur



<https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordiacandydays2024/participant/PollyBaur>

## Soup Kitchen

For some 30 years we have been partnering with First United Methodist Church of Evanston to staff a soup kitchen 6 times a year. Typically we take **the second Thursday of every odd numbered month (January, March, etc.)**. We provide the food and the volunteers to pack and serve that food. The time requirement is not great: either 1-2 hours in the afternoon in Glencoe and/or 2-3 hours in the early evening in Evanston.

We also welcome contributions to the fund to purchase the food. We typically cater to 60-80 diners, serve them a hot dinner and a sack lunch for the next day. We welcome newcomers. Just contact John Tuohy or Susan Newcomb for details, dates, directions and the like.



-- John Tuohy and Susan Newcomb

## Family Promise needs Volunteers

Family Promise provides free family shelter to families with children – keeping families together during a time of homelessness, unlike other homeless shelters separate families by female/male. Family Promise also offers training, budgeting and other support to help families move from homelessness to success. Because St. Elisabeth cannot house families in our church; we partner with two other churches.

We need volunteers to help cook meals, stay overnight or just help serve meals. Homeless families with children want someone to talk with and someone to interact with their children.



We help three to five times per year for one week at a time. There is a sign-up online for dinners or sleepovers. It is easy, helpful, fulfilling and very efficient. It is good to share a meal with people in need.

For more information, please contact Robert Fischer, Lauren Edelston, Carrie Mygatt or Carla Arnell.



### Sunday Forum

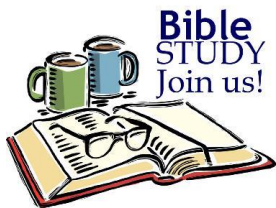
**Sunday Forum:** We will gather weekly at **Coffee Hour after the 10:00 am service** in the Guild Room. We will discuss the day's readings, sermon, liturgy, music and whatever else is on folks' minds. These conversations will be facilitated by the Rector. On select Sundays, we will continue to have guest speakers and teachers on various topics.

### Christianity 101: Faith for Adults

Our next Better Together Adult Education opportunity will be on **Saturday, April 20: 4:30 to 6:00 PM** at St. Elisabeth's. *The Topic:* Prayer: Prayer is a word to describe how we encounter God, both together on Sunday or at other times, with our families, or alone outdoors or in our room. This session will explore different practices that help connect a person to God and deepen that relationship.



### St. Elisabeth's Bible Study



Our parish Bible Study group meets weekly in person, on **Fridays at 11:00 AM** in the Guild Room. We will be reading through entire books of the Bible – currently we are reading the Gospel of Mark. After that we will read the Gospel of Luke. Come join us! Contact Larry Whipple if you have any questions.



## Altar Guild - Volunteers Needed

Have you ever wondered how we get communion set up for each of our church services or why we use different colors for different seasons in the church?

Did you know that the Altar Guild has its roots in the most ancient and sacred traditions of Jesus' ministry?



And it's not just for women... in fact at several churches Altar Guilds include men, women and even teenagers.

Our Altar Guild at St. Elisabeth is responsible for the preparation of the Altar including setting up communion supplies, changing of the church linens and refilling our candles. It is also an opportunity to work closely with Adam as we set up and clean up after services. It is also a relatively low time commitment and easy way to help our community.

**We are now in need of new volunteers to join our small but mighty crew that help with our set up and clean up after our services.** If you are interested, please reach out to Polly Baur (polly.baur@gmail.com / 773-818-3738) or to Adam.

## Feature on an Outreach Partner, Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter

Please, continue to collect newspapers for this wonderful organization that we support.



Susan, John & Chuck

The following was taken from "Orphan's" website. What an interesting history!

### ORPHANS OF THE STORM® *animal shelter*

Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter was founded in 1928 by the world-renowned dancer, actor, and entrepreneur Irene Castle and her friend Helen Swift. Irene named Orphans of the Storm after her favorite silent movie by the same name, in which two orphaned sisters are reunited. It was Irene's hope to provide a happy ending to lost and abandoned dogs and cats in

the Chicago area. Irene Castle and her first husband, Vernon, were famous ballroom dancers portrayed in the movie *The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle* by Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. After Vernon passed, Irene married Major Frederick McLaughlin, founder of the Chicago Blackhawks. They settled in Lake Forest, and Irene found an abandoned kennel in nearby Riverwoods, the site of what would become Orphans of the Storm.

# Family Worship and Potluck Supper

Saturday April 13, at 4:30 pm in the Guild Room



4:00 GATHER  
4:30 WORSHIP  
FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

*ACTIVITIES AND FUN FOR EVERYONE -  
SINGLES, COUPLES, CHILDREN OF ALL SIZES*

*FRIENDS ALWAYS WELCOME*

Please sign up on the poster in the hallway  
or call the parish office – 847-835-0458

Bring a favorite dish to share – not required

## St. E's Book Group

### Is Revenge Ever an Appropriate Response to Wrongdoing?



St. E's Book Group will discuss **Hekabe** by Euripides at its regular meeting, April 9. The group meets at noon in the guild room for a brown bag lunch and lively discussion. Revenge, it's an age-old theme, one which has been considered by playwrights as long ago as ancient Greece. In his play **Hekabe**, Euripides dramatizes three myths about the aftermath of the Trojan War. Through the character portraying the former Queen of Troy, he explores ideas about (1) Justice and Punishment and (2) the individual and the civic world.

The play is the first literary selection in the Great Books Foundation's anthology, **Great Conversations 5**. If you enjoy discussing what you read, consider becoming a member of the Book Group. The readings are short and have been selected for their multifaceted levels of meaning. No special expertise or background information is needed. Discussions center on your interpretation of the ideas presented in the text. There are no right or wrong answers. Drop in are always welcome. A loaner copy of the anthology is available in the office. Questions? Email Joyce Newcomb at [JoyceRNewcomb@gmail.com](mailto:JoyceRNewcomb@gmail.com)

--Joyce Newcomb

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## Saint Elisabeth's Calendar

### *Regular Weekly Schedule*

#### **Sundays**

8:00 AM – Spoken Eucharist Rite I

9:00 AM – Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM – Choral Eucharist Rite II

11:00 AM – Coffee Hour, Forum & Sunday School

#### **Mondays**

8:00 PM – AA Group

#### **Wednesdays**

7:15 PM – Boy Scout Troop #28

#### **Thursdays**

7:30 AM – Spoken Eucharist Rite II

7:30 PM – Choir Rehearsal

#### **Fridays**

11:00 AM – Bible Study

#### **Saturdays**

5:00 PM – AA Group

### *Special Events*

#### **Tuesday, April 9**

12:00 Noon St. E's Book Group

7:15 PM Vestry Meeting

#### **Friday, April 12**

6:00 PM Vestry MMR

#### **Saturday, April 13**

4:30 PM Family Worship and Potluck Supper

#### **Sunday, April 14**

5:30 PM Taizé Service at Christ Church Winnetka

#### **Saturday, April 20**

4:30 PM Confirmation Class at St. Elisabeth's

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St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

556 Vernon Avenue, Glencoe, Illinois 60022

847-835-0458

[www.steglencoe.org](http://www.steglencoe.org)