



# THE VOICE

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## View from The Pulpit

New York Times Bestseller Anne Lamott is one of those authors whose writing powerfully changed my life. I read her book “Travelling Mercies” while exploring Christianity in my early twenties and it helped me feel like I could find a place for myself within the Church. Her essay on prayer is something I’ve “borrowed” from in nearly every class I’ve ever taught on prayer. (Her three basic prayers: Help. Thanks. Wow.) So I was thrilled to get to go hear her speak at last month’s Family Action Network event in Wilmette.

Something I didn’t remember: Anne Lamott is a Sunday School teacher. She attends an “always failing, always dying” Presbyterian church out in California and as often as she’s able to she teaches Sunday School to the “three or four kids” who attend. She was asked during the Q&A portion of her talk if she had any advice for Sunday School teachers in the audience and her advice is good advice for Sunday School - and for adults too!

1. **Tell them over and over that they are loved by God and by you.** That’s stuff we can’t say or hear enough. We are God’s beloved, we are loved by our friends and family, and we are called to love others too.
2. **Have a snack.** Because the journey of faith should include treats and nourishment.
3. **The kids love to hear about the awful people in the Bible.** Cranky Jonah, power-hungry Saul, the bitter older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son...In them, the kids see lives like their own and a world like our own. Imperfect people. Messy lives. All a part of God’s story.
4. **Make art.** Finger painting, water colors, collage. Be creative as God is creative.

Lamott says Sunday School isn’t terribly complicated but it is vitally important. To help our children know they are loved by God and by us, that church is a place for fun as well as formation, and that the Christian story, God’s story, has a place for imperfect people, messy lives, and people like them. Our Director of Children’s Formation, Abigail Pribble, has been doing a phenomenal job with our “three or four kids” on Sunday mornings this year. Helping them explore their faith, have fun, and create some art too. If you’d like to help her out on Sunday mornings, please reach out to her or to me. (We could definitely use some regular snack support!) And don’t forget, adults, YOU are God’s beloved, YOU are a part of God’s unfolding story too.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Adam Spencer, *Rector*

## The Warden's Corner

### **Ensuring the Vitality St. Elisabeth's Ministries Today and Tomorrow**

St. Elisabeth's relies on the generous contributions of its parishioners to maintain the church's annual general Operating Fund. Each year, the general operating budget allocates funds for staff salaries, youth and adult formation, internal and outreach ministries, parish life activities, buildings and grounds related expenses such as utilities, repairs, and supplies required to maintain the church and rectory, and an annual payment to the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

In addition to the funding provided by church members, St. Elisabeth's is fortunate to receive significant contributions to the Operating Fund from rent payments by the Glencoe Montessori and the Baehr Fund, St. Elisabeth's Reserve Fund. On average, these payments make up 25% of the annual operating budget.

Though parishioners are invited to make a pledge of support each fall during St. Elisabeth's annual Stewardship Campaign, contributions to the Operating Fund are welcome any time. At the campaign's end in November, church members enter the total amount they plan to contribute the following year on a pledge card. The church does not set a minimum annual contribution, and each household is welcome to discern their best gift. Annual pledges are paid during the next year, either in one payment or installments. Parishioners and visitors may also contribute to St. Elisabeth's ministries by placing a donation in the offering plate during worship services.

In collaboration with the rector, St. Elisabeth's lay leadership volunteers steward the Operating and Reserve Funds. These volunteers include the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, the Vestry and Wardens, the Stewardship Chair, and the Baehr Fund Trustees. Occasionally the leadership team may initiate fundraising campaigns to raise money for special projects. For example, capital campaigns raise funds to make improvements to St. Elisabeth's buildings and grounds beyond the maintenance budget in the Operating Fund.

### **St. Elisabeth's Legacy Society and The Baehr Fund**

Members of St. Elisabeth's Legacy Society help secure the parish's long-term economic viability through contributions to the Baehr Fund, the church's Reserve Fund. The Baehr Fund grows through new contributions made by parishioners who join St. Elisabeth's Legacy Society. These members are invited to special gatherings hosted annually by the Baehr Fund Trustees. The Baehr Fund is managed by the Diocesan Foundation and increases when the Foundation's investments do well.

In addition to ensuring St. Elisabeth's future, gifts to the Baehr Fund enable operation of the church today through an annual draw which supplements St. Elisabeth's general operating budget. It is important to grow the Baehr Fund to ensure adequate funds are available when needed. For example, the upcoming window replacement project and second floor reconstruction costs (beyond what insurance will cover) will be paid for with contributions from the Baehr Fund and additional generous contributions from anonymous donors. Special projects like these are too expensive to pay for through the annual Operating Fund. St. E's is fortunate to have the ability to tap into this resource on the rare occasions it is deemed necessary by the church's leadership. New contributions to the Baehr Fund of any amount are welcome from both new and existing St. Elisabeth's Society members to help sustain this resource.

You can make a gift to the Baehr Fund at any time to become a member of St. Elisabeth's Legacy Society.

**In addition to making a cash gift, other ways you can make a gift today include:**

- Make a gift of appreciated stock, which may qualify for an income tax deduction while avoiding capital gains. A gift of stock can also be made to the annual Operating Fund.
- If you are at least 70 ½ years old, you may make a charitable deduction directly from your IRA, putting those dollars to work without increasing your taxable income.

You can also join the St. Elisabeth's Legacy society by making a deferred gift after your lifetime through estate planning. **There are several ways to make a planned gift to The Baehr Fund:**

- Name St. Elisabeth's as a beneficiary of your IRA or other qualified retirement account, avoiding the income tax on those dollars when they pass to your heirs.
- Name St. Elisabeth's as beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- Include a bequest provision for St. Elisabeth's in your will or trust.

If you would like more information about how you can become a member of St. Elisabeth's Legacy Society with your gift today or a planned gift tomorrow, please contact Anne Tuohy, Chair of the Baehr Fund.

--Leslie Alter, *Warden*

## Family Worship and Potluck Supper

Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
In the Guild Room

4:00 pm Gather  
4:30 pm Worship, Food, and Fellowship

*Activities and Fun for Everyone  
Singles, Couple, 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



## Pentecost - Sunday, May 19

The Feast of Pentecost commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit - to the first followers of Jesus as depicted in the Acts of the Apostles and in our lives as well.

The Holy Spirit is, as the Book of Common Prayer says, "God at work in the world and in the Church even now." When we notice or feel God working in our lives and in our world - we are encountering the Holy Spirit. The Spirit inspired the prophets of the Bible to proclaim God's message to the world in their day and continues to inspire those who work to lead the world closer to God's vision for it today. We experience the Holy Spirit in our own lives whenever we are "brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation."



The symbols of the Holy Spirit are the dove (which descended on Jesus when he was baptized in the Jordan River), holy fire (the burning bush, the tongues of flame in the Acts of the Apostles), and a mighty wind and the breath of God (which moved over the waters in the Creation story in Genesis, and which was breathed out upon the apostles by Jesus). The liturgical color of Pentecost is Red - symbolizing the fire of the Spirit burning within us and "firing us up" to follow Jesus and live out our faith.

So **come to church on May 19 and wear RED** as we celebrate the Spirit of God - leading us, guiding us, inspiring us to live lives of courageous faith and of love and harmony with God and the world around us.

## Soup Kitchen



We're ready for Soup Kitchen. Please, join us on Thursday, May 9th for our first warm-weather soup kitchen of 2024.

Come to church at 3:00 to help make sandwiches for the sack lunches that we'll hand out after dinner or consider joining us at First United Methodist in Evanston at 5:00 to cook and serve our brothers and sisters in need. Email John Tuohy or Susan Newcomb for more information or to confirm you'll be there.

[ [johnltuohy62@gmail.com](mailto:johnltuohy62@gmail.com) or [srnewcomb@comcast.net](mailto:srnewcomb@comcast.net) ]

John Tuohy and Susan Newcomb

## Confirmation Service May 4

Zuzu Arnell will be confirmed by Bishop Clark along with the rest of our Better Together Confirmation Class at a **Confirmation Service** on **Saturday, May 4th at 11:00 AM at Trinity Church in Highland Park**. If you're able, please come and join in this celebration with Zuzu, her sponsor Kara Superfine, and the rest of the confirmands.

## B&G Spring Clean-Up All Call

♪♪♪ There is a season, Clean! Clean! Clean! ♪♪♪

Please join us on Saturday morning, May 18<sup>th</sup>; around 10:00 AM for the annual Spring Cleaning Day.

This coincides with Glencoe's Spring Clean/Pick-Up Day.

We'll tackle these hits:

Cleaning and Installing Screens Into Windows!

Hauling Materials Down to the Curb!\*\*

Vacuuming and Dusting Rooms!

Moving Salt Bucket's & Shovels back to the Basement!

Changing Light Bulbs!

Bumping your Head in the Undercroft!

And whatever else we can do!

As always, we'll be harnessing the awesome energy of donuts & coffee to power us along.

If individuals could bring cleaning supplies (Windex, paper towels, etc.), rags, and buckets. A portable vacuum or two with a flexible hose would be a big help.

\*\*There might be a small, short, pre-spring clean-up during the very late afternoon/early evening on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

The purpose of the Friday Event is to bring items down to the curb for the city/collectors to pick-up.



Contact Peter Wittleder with any questions.



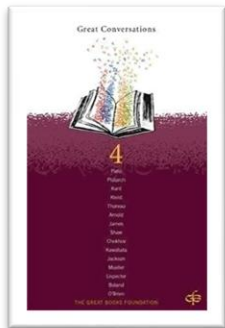
# Presentation of Mite Box Offering For Venezuelan Refugee Families

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
Feast of Pentecost  
10:00 AM Service



## St. E's Book Group

Do John Keats's Insights on Melancholy Ring True Today?



St. E's Book Group will discuss three poems by John Keats: "Ode to a Nightingale," "Ode to a Grecian Urn," and "Ode on Melancholy" at its monthly meeting, Tuesday, May 14, at noon in the guild room. Here Keats explores themes on artistic creativity and the dimensions of imagination and asks the question do art and music convey a wisdom beyond that which is discovered in literature. The poems can be found on line or in the Great Books Foundation's anthology, Great Conversations 5. Our discussions center on your interpretation of the ideas presented in the text. Drop ins 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

## Paws for Patrick

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Paws for Patrick is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the mental health of young people through the emotional support of animals and increasing awareness and acceptance of mental health issues in children and young adults. Paws for Patrick also started the Turn our Towns Green campaign three years ago encouraging residents, places of worship, and businesses to tie lime green ribbons around trees to show their support of this mission. Please join us again this year by tying a green ribbon around the trees in your yard or business for the entire month of May to show your support and help break the stigma associated with mental illness.





# Easter Day at St. E's March 31, 2024



## 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*

#### **Saturday, May 11**

4:30 PM Family Eucharist & Potluck Supper

#### **Sunday, May 12**

5:30 PM Taizé Service at Christ Church Winnetka

#### **Tuesday, May 14**

12:00 Noon St. E's Book Group

7:15 PM Vestry Meeting

### *Save the Date*

#### **Sunday, June 9**

11:30 am Parish Picnic



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St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

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847-835-0458

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