



THE VOICE

View from The Pulpit

“You won’t see much of me this summer once golf gets going,” a parishioner told me the other day.

And they are not alone. A colleague from another Christian denomination joked with me that **his** church had church **all summer long** unlike we Episcopalians. We **do** go away in the summer. Some of us have summer homes, we take vacations, we go to visit family in far off places. Church attendance dips down in the summer and the general sense is that things slow down to a crawl as far as parish events. I’m sure some of my priestly colleagues and fellow pastors get all huffy about this. But I don’t.

I’m used to it. My childhood Unitarian Universalist church took summers off too. They didn’t have regular services at all in the summer with music and readings and sermons. Instead they met in a circle of chairs in the church office for a discussion or meditation moderated by a member of the congregation.

At the end of the summer, when they came back together for their first “regular” service of the year in September, they practiced what they called “Water Communion.” They put a big bowl in the front of the church and they poured in some water from last year’s service. And then, one by one, member by member, family by family, folks came forward with baby food jars and pickle jars and water bottles and medicine bottles and they poured into the bowl the water that they had gathered on their summer adventures. Water from the Snake River out West and kayaking on Lake Superior and tap water from the hotel room in Paris and from the hospital where so and so had their appendix removed, water from the funeral home where Nama’s Wake was held and from the Jordan River and a little rum from the Caribbean mixed with warm Gulf seawater.

The idea was that the summer was sacred time too. You know me by now - I’m a big fan of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. And one of Ignatius’s big themes was “finding God in all things.” Because God is with us in all things. It’s the badly kept secret some of my fellow clergy seem loathe to share broadly: you don’t need to come to Church to experience the Sacred. God is with you on vacation, on the beach, in the mountains, with your family and yes even out on the golf course.

So that’s my challenge to you this summer. Seek God where-ever you find yourself. Thank God for the blessings and joys, for the adventure and the journeys, the ups and the downs. Bring your life to God and invite God into your life, one lazy summer afternoon at a time. Wherever these months take you.

And then in the fall, come back and tell us all about it. Water optional.

Faithfully,
The Rev. Adam Spencer, *Rector*

Seminarian's Report



Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving St. Elisabeth's while learning, and I want to underscore how much of a privilege it has been. As I have grown more deeply to know each of you, I have been continually blessed by your spirit of welcome and hospitality. When I have preached, I have received feedback that was both kind and constructive. When I have served at the altar, I have been encouraged by the piety of those who serve alongside me, as well as those who faithfully come to encounter God week after week. When I have led parish events, whether on climate policy or Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, I have been strengthened and sharpened as keen minds engaged with challenging ideas, seeking truth collectively in the face of complexity and nuance.

Yours is a community of loving, thoughtful people. Your faith is deep, and it inspires me to grow in my own faith. You have taught me about the Christian life in ways that will forever shape me and ministry. Your piety and dedication to the tradition of the Church is exemplary, as I see in each of your eyes during Sunday mass—you open windows to your soul, from which an ardor for the heart of God shines forth like a bright flame, giving light to all that it touches. Yours is a community of keen minds, adept with nuance and able to wrestle with complexity in its myriad manifestations. You are capable of great kindness and constructiveness in the face of opportunities to grow. You are lavish in your hospitality, giving of time, talent, and treasure not just to the parish but to those in dire need outside its walls. You have welcomed me and loved me, and I too love you all. Your presence in my life is a gift; my service to you is a privilege. I hold you in my prayers and will continue to do so. Thank you for allowing me to work for and with you all as I learned and grew. May God bless and keep you until we meet again!

Respectfully yours,
Seán Hansen, Seminarian, 2022-2024

Summer Office Hours



We move to our summer office hours in June, July and August. Tuesday – by appointment. Wednesday and Thursday afternoons 12:00 NOON to 4:00 PM.

Annual Church Picnic- Sunday, June 9

We have reserved the BIG JOHN GRILL and will be cooking brats, burgers, chicken, etc. which will be complemented with salads, chips, and an array of desserts.

Rain or shine, this party of fellowship happens after the 10:00 AM church service.

Mark it on your calendar and we look forward will to seeing you all there.



--Phil Miller and the Grill Masters

Making a Joyful Noise

Growing as a Musician and a Person Singing in St. Elisabeth's Choir



Singing with St. Elisabeth's choir was a hugely enriching part of my college experience. I started singing on Sunday mornings just "making a joyful noise." While I was nervous the first few weeks, and my voice was rusty from not having sung in a while, I quickly found choir singing grounded me and gave me something to look forward to each week. Walter Aldrich is a master vocal instructor, with a profound understanding of the human voice and an amazing ability to teach singing technique. Under his guidance I grew both as a musician and as a person. Thursday night rehearsals got me away from our small, sometimes suffocating campus, and provided peace during hectic weeks. Singing and attending services at St. Elisabeth's added depth and richness to my Sunday mornings. I have been so inspired by my experience that I have encouraged other Lake Forest College students and my family to join the choir for rehearsals and

services. I have been pleased to see how much the choir has grown under Walter's leadership. If you are not yet singing with the choir, I highly recommend you start! Thank you to Walter, to the other choir members, and to the larger congregation for these two wonderful years with you all.

Matthew Carey, May 19, 2024



B&G Thank You!

Jim Bauer and I want to thank all the volunteers who made it to Spring Cleaning on the 17th. The Spring & Fall Clean-up days really give us a chance to assess how our wonderful old church is doing and what projects we need to tackle in the coming months. It's also provides a great sense of community & continuity as familiar faces tackle projects where they've become specialists in handling, and teaching other members how things work. We're very excited about the upcoming window work in the guild room/choir room and look forward to the 2nd floor coming together. I also want to personally thank Jim for all his continued B&G oversight and, most importantly, delivering an exciting selection of donuts for the even

Take care, Peter Wittleder

Pride Month



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

June is Pride Month and once again we'll be flying the Rainbow Flag at St Elisabeth's! To celebrate Pride, Team LGBTQ is hosting the annual Pride Picnic at St E's with great food, games and music on **Sunday, June 23 after the 10:00 AM service**. This is a fun event for the whole family and we hope you can come.

In addition, be sure to mark your calendars for a special joint event in celebration of Pride Month taking place on the evening of **Tuesday June 11 at the Glencoe Public Library**. In honor of Transgender Day of Visibility, which took place on Easter Sunday this year, St Elisabeth's is bringing back our favorite facilitator Lizzy Appleby from Glenview/Northbrook Youth Services to host a panel of Transgender and non-Binary guests for an adult community discussion of timely and relevant issues. Stay tuned for more details!

Outdoor Worship

We will worship outdoors on the Church Lawn at 10:00am this summer and early fall on the following dates:

June 16
July 14
August 25
October 6 (Blessing of the Animals)



Keep an eye on your email on these Sunday mornings if the weather looks questionable - we will move into the church in the event of rain. Bring a lawn chair from home, if you'd like, and join us in worshipping God in the glory of God's Creation!

Tell Us About Our New Website!

Last year St. Elisabeth's launched a new website. Because it is a work-in-progress, the Vestry's Communication Committee would appreciate any feedback you might have about the website: things you like, things you'd like to see improved or changed. Suggestions could include content, layout, ease of navigation, or anything else that's on your mind. Please send this feedback to Robert Fischer (rkfischer@gmail.com) in the next week. Robert has agreed to serve as the parish's website manager, ensuring that our calendar is up to date and adding event announcements and photos. We are very grateful to Robert for his willingness to take on this important role!

Sunday School



For Our Sunday School Families On Sunday, June 9, our Sunday School students will get gifts for the summer. The family of each student will get a copy of the "Holy Moly" version of the Bible. Further, each student will get a book for her or his own. The books for the individual pupils will be age appropriate for their recipients. We hope that the Holy Moly Bibles encourage family Bible reading. We also hope that the books for the individuals help the young people enjoy the summer--and have something to think about. For more information, please contact Fred Johnston or Abigail Pribble.

Sunday School for Children, upstairs **after the 10:00 AM service every Sunday**. Children of all ages are invited to come learn about the Bible and have some fun with our Director of Children's Formation Abigail Pribble.

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.



Bible Study



St. Elisabeth's Bible Study The St. E's Bible Study group meets weekly on **Fridays at 11:00 am**. During the summer months, we will be reading the Acts of the Apostles **on Zoom** beginning June 7th and continuing through the first Friday in September. (Following the missionary journeys of Paul as we embark on our own summer adventures) The Zoom link is available in the weekly parish e-news. We will return to in-person meetings on September 13th. For more information, contact Larry Whipple.

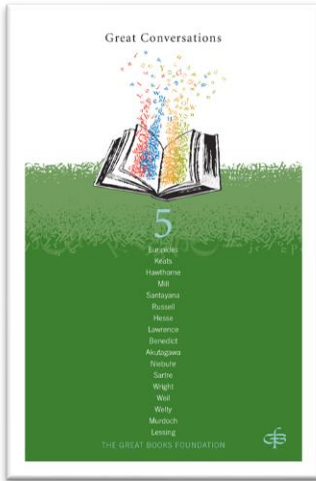
Confirmation at Trinity HP on May 4, 2024



St. E's Book Group Summertime Reading

In June, a redo: 3 John Keats Odes

Later, Iris Murdoch's novel, *The Bell*



By popular demand, St. E's Book Group will discuss "Ode to a Nightingale," "Ode to a Grecian Urn," and "Ode on Melancholy" at its monthly meeting, Tuesday, June 11, at noon, on the patio, weather permitting. Bring a brown bag lunch. 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**.

Later in the summer, the group will gather at a date to be determined to discuss **The Bell**. Published in 1958, the novel urges the reader to imagine other people's stories. An acclaimed author, Murdoch is skilled in blending social satire with a keen, compassionate view of her characters. In **The Bell** considers whether moral absolutes must be modified to accommodate human nature. As always, Book Group's 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

Soup Kitchen

On May 9, we served some 60 diners. We bought food from Costco and Grand Foods. We prepared lunch sacks in the afternoon (thank you Larry & Susan Whipple, Libby Hinds, Adam Spencer). We prepared and served the evening meal (thanks to Phil Miller, Adam Spencer, Dace & Bryan Lukasa-Tangri). With snowbirds returning to the area, and students out of school, perhaps there will be a full slate of volunteers for **our next date: Thursday, July 11**. Put it on your calendars. The number of diners continues to grow slowly as we put some distance between the pandemic and now.



-Susan Newcomb and John Tuohy

Martha, Martha!

My large stainless steel serving spoon disappeared from church at the May "Second Saturday". I've looked everywhere. Did you take it by mistake? Please let Susan Whipple know if anyone else has found it.

Your loving sister, Mary

Pentecost, May 19



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

Sunday, June 9

Parish Picnic

Tuesday, June 11

12:00 Noon St. E's Book Group

Sunday, June 16

Outdoor Worship

Tuesday, June 18

7:00 PM Vestry Meeting

Sunday, June 23

Pride Sunday

St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

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