



THE VOICE

Advent & Christmas at St. Elisabeth's

December 2

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Services at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM
Advent Wreath Making to follow

December 9

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Services at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

December 16

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Early Service at 8:00 AM
Advent Lessons & Carols at 10:00 AM
Festive Coffee Hour Hosted by Vestry

December 23

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One Service at 10:00 AM
“Decorate the Church” party
to follow at 10:50 AM.

December 24

Christmas Eve

FESTIVAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
At 4:00 PM
With Pageant, Choir & Sermon

December 25

Christmas Day Celebrate at Home

December 30

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

One Service at 10:00 AM
Coffee Hour hosted by the Codys
at the Rectory

CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE AT ALL 10:00 AM SERVICES

AND AT THE 4:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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Annual Meeting

Save the date:

January 27, 2019

The Warden's Corner

This Thanksgiving, I was ruminating over how I'm such a naive Episcopalian. Besides St. Elisabeth's, my family and I briefly attended a large Episcopalian church in Virginia some years ago. Before that, we bounced around a bit and before that I was a Roman Catholic thanks to my French / Polish heritage.

I just sort of assumed that more or less, all Episcopalian churches are pretty much like St. E's. Sure, some are bigger, and the buildings look a bit different, but generally speaking we all believe the same stuff, right?

At the Diocesan Convention this weekend, I got a chance to meet people from all over the Diocese and see just how different our churches are. Some were struggling to get agreement to hang their rainbow flag outside. Some were stuck on whether it was ok to change some of the hymns they normally play. Others faced a minor rebellion by swapping the organist for a guitar player for one of their services. (Guitar players -- you can't trust those guys...)

And these are just the differences on the surface. More fundamental disagreements were heard on the floor of the Convention when we were discussing a resolution that referred to clergy as "he or she". When someone suggested an amendment to change the wording to "they" to accommodate clergy with non-binary gender identities, I was stunned to hear several representatives strongly object. The main objection was that "they" was improper grammar. Others pointed out that while it does break the grammar rules we grew up with, this is changing since there is no other suitable pronoun in our dictionary yet. We seemed to be at an impasse until someone suggested a compromise to simply change the wording to "the individual".

I also learned that although the national Episcopal Church allows gay marriage, 8 of the approximately 100 bishops across the US remain opposed to it. Last July, in response, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church issued Resolution B012, a compromise aimed at allowing gay couples to marry at their home churches in the eight dissenting dioceses across the country. So basically the priests can use their own discretion and go against their own bishop.

Wow, the Episcopal Church is a lot more complex than I thought. How naive of me.

For the most part, my experience at St. Elisabeth's has been that we are quick to accept change, even if sometimes disagree about it. We lean into things that support the pillars of our BHAG (LGBTQ, Multi-cultural, Multi-faith, and the Unaffiliated). 5 or 6 years ago, we did a survey asking each family about what they loved most about our church. Openness and inclusion, trying new things, intellectual curiosity and being 'small and mighty' were some of the main things people talked about. I think that's still very true today - more so, in fact. Just look at all the things we've done. St. Elisabeth's is a special place -- not just in the broader religious and secular landscape -- but even within the Episcopal Church, and even within our very own Diocese. We blend the old and the new like nobody. While we're not perfect, we are willing to change and reinterpret the teachings of our faith to make them more relevant in today's world.

And for that, I am thankful.

--Rich Lesperance, Warden



Christmas Pageant Information

In keeping with one of St. Elisabeth's Church's traditions, we begin to think about and plan for our annual Christmas Pageant. It is so fitting that the children are the ones who announce Jesus' birth for the whole congregation at the Christmas Eve service, December 24, at 4:00 PM.

Open to children ages 3 and up, there are both speaking and non-speaking parts available for all who are interested. Children aged 3 through kindergarten will be cast into non-speaking roles as angels, sheep, etc. Children in first grade and up are encouraged to seek speaking parts. The first step on the "to-do list" is to gather our cast, so please email me at lesliekdavey@att.net or text/call me at 630-624-1196 to indicate if your child(ren) will be part of the pageant this year. I will also ask you the next time I see you.



For children interested in having a speaking part, we expect their attendance at our Sunday after-church gatherings (from 11:15 am-12 pm on December 9 and 16) as well as a 10:00 AM dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 22. Children interested in being a part of our Christmas Pageant, but not having a speaking part, are only required to be present at the dress rehearsal at 10:00 AM on December 22.

It's also fun to have children watching from the pews, so if your children are more comfortable watching, no worries, but please choose to sit up front so they can see.

--Leslie Davey and Claire Cody

French Dip Parish Debrief



Please, plan on staying after church on Sunday, December 9th for an opportunity to celebrate our success as a parish with the French Dip. Lunch will be served and gluten free and meat free options will be available. The main dish is a surprise! It will be a family friendly event and a chance to share stories, photos and all that we learned. Don't miss the fun and fellowship



--Hall Healy, Susan Newcomb, Daphne Cody

Welcome Claire Olson, Music Intern

Dear friends,

In October, we welcomed Claire Olson to St. Elisabeth's as our new soprano section leader. After meeting Claire, her passion for music and desire to be in a community where she could grow in her faith was very clear to me; I felt her presence and many gifts would be a wonderful addition to our church. So far, I haven't been proved wrong – she has fit right in and is quickly learning the ins-and-outs of Episcopal liturgy and life here at St. E's.



Claire is a junior at Lake Forest College, majoring in Music and minoring in Studio Art. She was born and raised in Saint Michael, Minnesota and has attended Word of Peace Lutheran Church in Rogers, MN with her family her whole life, singing

at multiple church events over the years. She has always had a deep love for music and participates in Concert Band, Women's Chorus, Chamber Choir, and the a capella group on campus, The Inversions. One day she hopes to pursue a career in music production/performance or the radio industry. She is very excited for this opportunity to worship God through music every Sunday.

I am looking forward to the beautiful music Claire will add to the choir, but more importantly, the way in which St. E's will continue to grow as a faith community because of her witness and presence among us. If you haven't had the chance to welcome her, please stop by at an upcoming Coffee Hour, say hello, and introduce yourselves!

--Blessings, Dillon



A portion of the intrepid volunteer crew that helped with the B&G Fall Clean-Up Day on November 3. The question remains, Which one of them went up the ladder?

Hometown Coffee & Juice

Back to 700 Vernon Avenue on Tuesdays. The construction at the former Glencoe Roast is finished and Hometown Coffee & Juice has reopened under new ownership. Through the rest of 2018, we are going to give it a try for the Rector's

Open Office Hour from 7:30 - 8:30 AM, and for the Lectionary Study from 8:30 - 9:30 AM. The Lectionary study welcomes drop-ins with no prior knowledge to look together at the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. No office hours on December 25 or January 1 this year.

Soup Kitchen

On Thursday, November 8, we served 75 diners at the First United Methodist Church of Evanston. We provided them with a sack lunch (for the next day) and a hot meal for that evening. Many hands make for easy work. Thanks to Susan Chadd (assisting in purchasing); Nancy Wittleder, Stephanie Mackiewicz, Kristine Schwandner, Libby Hinds (sack lunch preparation); Daphne and Jason Cody, Linda Illes, Kristine Schwandner, Jay Edelston, Robert Fisher, Susan Chadd and a neighbor from the First United Methodist Church of Evanston (dinner preparation and serving).

It's been a successful year, we shouldered the financial and volunteer burden for six dates, serving in the neighborhood of 500 diners. A pat on the back to each and all for our work in this outreach ministry!

Although we haven't gotten the schedule for 2019 buttoned down, it is a fair bet that we will have our next date on the second Thursday in January. Keep it in mind.....

-Chuck Chadd and John Tuohy

Pastoral Notes



Congratulations to Ross & Lani Miller on the Baptism of Jocelyn Louise Miller on November 4, 2018. (*see photo left*)

Prayers of sympathy are offered for Rod Zimmerman on the death of his mother Clara Zimmerman in October.

Prayers of sympathy are offered for Rene Surgi on the death of his sister Karla Gralapp in October.

Next Opportunity for Baptism – January 13

The next opportunity for baptism is January 13, 2019.
If you desire baptism for yourself or your child,
please speak to Daphne Cody.

Other baptism dates in 2019:
April 21 (Easter Day)
April 28 (Second Sunday of Easter)
June 9 (Pentecost)
November 3 (All Saints Sunday)



Diocesan Convention

On November 16-17, St. Elisabeth's participated in our annual Diocesan Convention at the Westin in Lombard. Below: Glenna Foley, Linda Illes, Dillon Shipman, Daphne and Jason Cody, Pam Green, and Rich Lesperance pose on the Convention floor with the cardboard cutout of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Top right: Dillon Shipman and Daphne Cody take turns reading from the Prophet Isaiah during the closing liturgy of Convention. Bottom right: Delegate Linda Illes participates at a lunch discussion table.



Annual Giving 2019

After our Pledge Blessing on November 18, we have already received pledges totaling \$182,110 from more than half of member households. Thank you for your timeliness! If you haven't let the church know in writing what you intend to contribute during the year 2019, please drop it in the collection plate, or drop it in the mail as soon as possible. You can also send an email to cody@steglencoe.org.

Vestry Nominations



If you are interested in being part of the Vestry (beginning in February 2019), please let your wishes be known to Glenna Foley, Nominating Committee Chair, Daphne Cody, Rector, or Rich Lesperance, Junior Warden, by December 1. We are looking for open-minded thinkers who would like to work in a significant relational group with other Vestry members to oversee the business of the church. Vestry members must be regular church attendees and financial contributors to the parish.

--The Wardens

Advent Wreath Making: December 2

Advent Wreath Making after church Sunday: Come One, Come All to join for the annual holiday tradition of Advent Wreath Making at St. Elisabeth's. Children and adults can work together to create beautiful wreaths to be used in your homes during the season of Advent and on into Christmas. There will also be the opportunity to help create Advent wreaths for those who cannot be with us.

--Jim & Polly Baur, Anne Tuohy, Dorothy Generes



ReVive Christmas Baskets



ReVive Christmas Baskets: Four families remain to be adopted. Sign up for a family on the board in the hallway at church, and take the corresponding info packet for that family. [information packets are in the Guild Room] The important dates are:

- Friday, December 7: All boxes and donations are due at St. Elisabeth's.
- Saturday, December 8: Pickup day by ReVive.

Questions? Please contact Rene Surgi at renesurgi@aol.com.

-- Rene Surgi

-----Cut Here-----

Christmas Flowers & Music

I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO:

\$ _____ to Christmas Flowers &/or \$ _____ to Christmas Music

In memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____



Please Note: Whether you are giving to Christmas flowers and/or Music on the Memo line of your check **To ensure your tribute is listed in the Christmas Bulletins, submit your Donation Form by Friday, December 14. Thank You**

Saint Elisabeth's Calendar

Regular Weekly Schedule

Sundays

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
9:45 AM Catechesis for age 3 – Grade 6
9:45 AM Nursery care available (first floor)
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Church)
11:00 AM Coffee Hour

Mondays

8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesdays

7:30-8:30 AM Hometown Coffee Office Hour
8:30-9:30 AM Lectionary Study Hour
7:30 PM Boy Scout Troop #28

Special Events

Sunday, December 2

Advent Wreath Making

Friday, December 7

ReVive Christmas Baskets Due at Church

Sunday, December 9

French Dip Parish Debrief

Friday, December 14

Deadline Christmas Flower/Music Dedications

Sunday, December 23

Greening of the Church/Decorating Party

Monday, December 24

4:00 PM Festive Christmas Service w/Pageant

Office Closed December 22 – January 1

St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

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