



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jul 8, 2020)

St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church, Chicago

556 Vernon Avenue, Glencoe, IL 60022, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 08/03/20.

amysen@episcopalchicago.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
60	2		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
	\$60500	\$20280	\$5000
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$87880	6	We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes	Yes	\$2100
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

Half SECA included in salary. Housing based on pension assessment FMRV \$3700/month,

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Last winter, St. Elisabeth's hosted a "Pronoun Event" to discuss new forms of address for transgender people. This event featured a guest preacher at both services and a workshop. The sermon invited everyone to share their experiences of "otherness" and not belonging while the workshop afterwards focused on pronoun usage and how "they, them, theirs" can show respect for and understanding of people who identify as transgender. These events led us to question assumptions and think about pronouns as a new way to demonstrate love and understanding. This Pronoun Event followed years of education, discussion, and prayer in response to the vestry's 2013 strategic plan to advance intercultural understanding. In the past six years, we've shown our "pride" by flying the rainbow flag, hosting and being available for same-sex weddings, marching with the Coalition of Welcoming Churches in Chicago's Pride Parade, organizing a community Pride Picnic on our front lawn, inviting LGBTQ speakers for workshops, and installing permanent rainbow icons on our outdoor signage. The Pronoun Event provided a moment of success and fulfillment in our ongoing quest to offer radical welcome to all God's people.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

One way is via new technologies. We regularly update our website and use social media to reach a broader community, particularly younger people. We recently started a Zoom confirmation class, and a virtual formation class for adults. We installed a hearing loop system that enhances the listening experience within our church. We added rooftop solar panels to address the growing global environmental crisis. We seek new and non-traditional ways of worshipping to reach more people in the parish and beyond. We renovated the north terrace of our church to improve its utility for outdoor worship and public use by our Montessori school. Our rector is visibly present in the community, meeting people "where they are" by hosting weekly office hours at Glencoe's "Hometown Coffee". We are currently exploring innovative changes to our children's ministry and re-evaluating the Sunday school program and the ways we involve young people in parish life. For instance, youth are now serving in our choir and nursery, and two teenagers have joined the Vestry. We are addressing safety concerns by seeking professional training to prepare our congregation in the event of church vandalism or violence.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

authentic, caring, flexible, transformative, excellent technology and social media skills

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

St Elisabeth's offers a spirit-filled liturgy embracing old and new. Due to the Covid crisis, we now offer virtual worship services and formation opportunities. On Sundays, we live-stream Morning Prayer and Spiritual Communion, then gather for Zoom Coffee Hour. Before the crisis, Holy Eucharist was celebrated at two Sunday services: an 8 AM service in the chapel, and a music-filled Eucharist at 10 AM in the main church. St Elisabeth's enjoys a combination of traditional and experimental liturgy. Music and prayers change seasonally, including prayers from sources such as Iona, New Zealand, and Punjabi Eucharists, as well as the BCP. Music may include a song in Hebrew, another in Spanish, and a gospel-style anthem. As a sign of radical hospitality, we welcome all at our communion table. In Advent we enjoy a festive Lessons and Carols service, and on Christmas Eve a pageant is part of the evening Eucharist. Lent includes an Ash Wednesday morning community distribution of ashes and an evening service and weekly Wednesday morning meditation and reflection. Holy Week is observed with special services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Eve.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Social outreach involves parishioners and community friends in its ministry. Our volunteers collaborate with neighboring parishes to offer food, housing, and welcome to those who have recently lost homes and need a transitional living space. Parishioners and friends pack sack lunches for the homeless and prepare and host a hot dinner for them every other month. Parishioners also collect and deliver food pantry donations for the church's township. St Elisabeth's also has active parish life ministries related to Sunday coffee-hour, all-parish parties, and bread-baking for holy communion. Some parishioners minister to the congregation through leadership positions on the Vestry or major task forces. The worship service itself involves a wide variety of parishioners in its ministry through ushering and altar-guild service, reading lessons and prayers, serving the chalice, and contributing musical talents. Children and youth serve as acolytes, ushers, and presenters of communion bread and wine. They help with food collection baskets and assist in the nursery. Parishioners also serve as lay ministers at the healing station and are commissioned to take communion to the homebound or ill.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

St Elisabeth's is a warm community, whose parishioners care for each other through prayers, home visits, and provisions of food and aid to those in need. For instance, when a parishioner was diagnosed with cancer, fellow parishioners provided prayers, meals, babysitting, and transportation for doctors' appointments. St Elisabeth's is increasingly devoting attention to its parishioners' spiritual lives, in good times or bad, in ordinary time or during different seasons of the liturgical year. The parish staff includes an Associate for Spiritual Wellness who meets with individuals privately for spiritual direction and offers forums for the whole parish on different facets of spiritual development. Recent programs included using the Anglican rosary, walking the labyrinth, and practicing centering prayer. Other opportunities for spiritual growth have included a fall initiative inviting parishioners to journal about and share pivotal moments in their spiritual formation. Lenten inter-generational formation activities have focused on connecting God's story and our story. St. Elisabeth's beautiful outdoor Labyrinth is used by parishioners and the wider community.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

One way we engage in pastoral care beyond our worshipping community is by supporting Family Promise, a program whose main goal is keeping families together during desperate times by providing shelter, meals, and resources to those who have lost their homes or jobs. By partnering with a neighboring parish, we provide a nurturing space for families to heal and find their footing as they work toward more stable lives for their families. We have also had a longstanding commitment to the Interfaith Action Soup Kitchen ministry, partnering with Evanston's First United Methodist Church. Weekly, we collect food and household necessities for distribution through the New Trier Township Pantry. At Christmas time, we support ReVive Center for Housing and Healing, providing presents, food, and household items to Chicago-area under-resourced families. As a parish, we engage in other outreach ministry as special needs arise. As individuals, we serve the wider community in multiple ways.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

St. Elisabeth's has a history of active participation in the wider Church. Several parishioners serve/have served as leaders in the Diocese, Province V and the wider Episcopal Church. Members serve/have served on governing boards of Episcopal Charities and Community Services and its ministry partners and as leaders in Interfaith Ministries and the National Council of Churches. Parishioners serve as volunteers and board members of other nonprofits that serve the wider community, locally and nationally. Our rector is an active participant in the Glencoe Interfaith Clergy Association, and the parish partners with local congregations in interfaith worship and outreach. St. Elisabeth's has been home to a local Boy Scout troop for decades and hosts an annual community worship service honoring scouting. We are also home to the Glencoe Montessori School. A far reaching example of our external involvement was a visit in 2018 by a dozen Roman Catholics from Nantes, France. We hosted these pilgrims and introduced them to many faith communities in the Chicago area and to such diverse cultural experiences as Halloween pumpkin carving, a Chicago jazz club, and eating Chicago pizza and hot dogs.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Since 2013, St Elisabeth's has sought to "become THE place on the North Shore for interfaith and intercultural understanding brought to life by a caring and active presence in our world." From that goal grew several new ministries: Rainbows (support for youth as they navigate grief and heal from loss), the LGBTQ+ Initiative, the Interfaith Initiative, the Multicultural Anti-Racism Initiative, and the Unaffiliated Initiative. By developing these ministries, our parish has worked to understand and cope with the changes we see in the church, the community, and the world, and to offer a safe place in which to discuss them. Over the last five years, each of these initiatives has evolved in its own way with unique goals and programs. Training sessions led by Kaleidoscope Institute leaders for parishioners and others in the community provided a foundation for this ministry. While we decided not to continue Rainbows, other initiatives have deepened and grown with time as we continue to work toward our goal of welcoming all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, and socioeconomic or marital status.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

St Elisabeth's approach to stewardship is defined by our commitment to radiating God's love within and beyond our red doors. We spread our talents, time, and energy across a variety of external ministries, from Family Promise to Soup Kitchen, as well as supporting the many internal ministries that make St. Elisabeth's a nurturing home for its parishioners. Our buildings and grounds are shared with the larger community, and we seek new ways to share this important asset. Ultimately, we leverage our community and its assets towards a goal of love. As stewards of St. Elisabeth's, we make personal thanksgiving offerings to God and pledge to do the work of God through our church. This pledge means recognizing generosity as a central path to spiritual maturity and choosing to live with the open hands of gratitude. We strive for a balanced budget.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

The CAT survey conducted in mid-2019 indicated that we are a very congenial group of parishioners. One 40-year member was able to remember periods when there was conflict, but not anything of real consequence over the past fifteen years. Several factors may be responsible for this kind of low-conflict atmosphere: one is the friendliness and maturity of the people. Parishioners stay behind for coffee hour after the service because they genuinely like each other. They are not out to "prove" something to someone else. They accept each other as they are. If there is a disagreement about an issue, it is "nipped in the bud" through open communications before it grows. Parishioners seem to naturally fill in for each other to complete a task. Another contributing factor is the tone set by the Vestry in modeling and teaching the Kaleidoscope approach of inviting others to speak. Yet another factor is the maturity and good judgment of the rector, helping to discern what works best for the community.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Our mission statement highlights our desire to try new things: We at St. Elisabeth's share an adventurous spirit. Within the parish, we regularly experiment with the worship service; we have installed solar panels to our roof; and we have begun to make significant, innovative changes in our approach to educating children and youth. Outwardly, we have supported a number of change-driven initiatives, including the five goals developed in 2013 and mentioned earlier as part of our strategic plan to address the changing needs of our community. Our interfaith initiative has been especially successful; for instance, we pioneered a unique, ambitious intercultural exchange by hosting Catholic parishioners from Nantes, France, introducing them to our parish and other major forms of religious worship in the Chicago area. By contrast, our Rainbows program did not develop as we had hoped, and we ultimately discontinued that initiative. Through that experience, we discovered that as a small church, with a limited number of parishioners, we are more effective dedicating ourselves to fewer initiatives and delving deeply into those rather than spreading our energy across many initiatives.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Kevin Goodman	Interim	2019-09	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Daphne Cody	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2005-01	2019-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Polly and Philip Kasey	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1990-01	2004-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	2	15

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
3	11	6	21

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School



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Worshipping Community Web site: www.steglencoe.org

Media Links:

Glencoe Boy Scout Troop 28: www.glencoescouting.org
Glencoe Montessori: www.highlandparkmontessori.com

Online References:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/steglencoe/
Twitter: @steglencoe

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop: 312-751-4217 bishop@episcopalchicago.org
Jeffrey Lee

Diocesan Transition Minister 312-751-4203 amysen@episcopalchicago.org
Andrea Mysen

Current Warden/Board Chair Senior Warden: Rich Lesperance, richltx@yahoo.com Junior Warden:
Rich Lesperance, Anne Tuohy atuohy@aol.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair glennafoley@comcast.net
Glenna Foley

Search Chair lyalter@gmail.com srnewcomb@comcast.net
Leslie Alter, Susan Newcomb

Parish/Institution prossiter@schiffhardin.com
Peter Prossiter

Local Community Leader info@glencoescouting.org
Jeff Heftman