



# THE VOICE

## The View from the Pulpit: Welcoming Shelley Byrnes

St. Elisabeth's is excited to welcome Shelley Byrnes as our coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries. Shelley is the Family Minister at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Deerfield. As part of our collaboration with our partner parishes, Shelley will work with us at St. E's on a part-time basis to assist in creating and planning children and youth formation opportunities alongside our volunteer leaders. While Shelley won't be with us on Sunday mornings, we hope you'll introduce yourself to her when we gather with our partner parishes for other worship and fellowship opportunities. Shelley has shared the following information for us to better get to know her.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Adam Spencer

Dear St. E's,

I see God in the faces of children and am so blessed to be involved with them as they grow in their faith and mature. Teenagers are some of the most interesting "Children of God" because they grow more at that age than any other in life: physically, emotionally, cognitively and spiritually. It is such a gift to be able to witness that growth and support them as they ask questions such as, "who am I to God?" or "why am I here?"

I have been involved in Christian Formation in various roles from Sunday School Teacher, Camp

Counselor, Nursery Coordinator, Youth Group Leader, Social Service Director, Sunday School

Administrator, Chalice Players Administrator to Family Minister over the course of 20 years. I have served churches and schools in Washington DC, Denver and Golden CO, and Scottsdale AZ.

I have a certificate in Children and Family Ministries from the Diocese of Arizona and a Certificate in Leadership in Lifelong Christian Formation from Forma and Virginia Theological Seminary. I also have a BA in English from Ripon College (3 credits short of a religion minor) and an AAS in Massage Therapy.

I have two adult daughters who bring me joy and help me laugh at myself! I have a grand-dog, Athena, who works with me in my office and three kitties: Max, Harry Potter and Ron Weasley. As you can tell, I'm a bit of a Harry Potter fanatic. I enjoy walking, yoga and movies.



I'm looking forward to doing ministry alongside all of you!

--Peace, Shelley Byrnes

## Adams Drop-In Office Hours

In-person and on Zoom  
Friday's from 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
or by appointment.  
The Zoom link is at St. E's Virtually.

## The Warden's Corner

### "Jesus is God's Show and Tell"



Years ago, a teacher shared this quote from one of her young children. It may be the best definition of the Incarnation I know. "Jesus is God's Show and Tell."

God comes to us in Jesus, a human being who walked this earth and faced the day-to-day challenges, joys, and disappointments of his fellow travelers. While we know little of Jesus' youth, we hear that he grew up in a family that loved him and taught him skills and values. He asked questions and seems to have been a challenge at times to his family. In the stories we hear about his short life of ministry, Jesus ate and drank with friends and strangers; he laughed and cried; he told stories and shared God's messages of love and forgiveness; he included children in his teaching, held them and listened to them; he healed the suffering, talked with those whom others shunned and listened to the lonely; he was tempted by Satan; he lashed out in anger at the temple money lenders; he got frustrated time and again when even his closest friends didn't get the message of God's love. He was strong and courageous, even willing to face death by those who feared his messages of love and peacemaking, nurture and forgiveness. In everything, Jesus acknowledged God's presence, "It is not I, but the Father who is in me."

During the Great Fifty Days of Easter, we are reminded once again of how his followers slowly came to understand more deeply Jesus's messages and the call they were receiving to continue "God's Show and Tell" in their own lives. *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:34-35 *"Feed my sheep."* John 21:17

**How are we at St. Elisabeth's "God's Show and Tell?"** Like Jesus' first followers and friends, we are imperfect human beings, hungering to know God's love more deeply. And like those early disciples, we may not always "get the message" at first, but by acknowledging God's presence in our lives, together we can follow the way of Jesus and continue to share God's story as our story.

As the COVID-19 pandemic hopefully continues to ease and we return to gathering in person, we look forward to getting to know each other in new ways. The vestry will be reaching out to each member individually. We want to know how you are doing. How can St. Elisabeth's help nurture your faith and provide worship, fellowship and outreach opportunities that meet your needs and interests? What are your ideas about how St. Elisabeth's can strengthen our ministry as we work together to be "God's Show and Tell" here and in the wider world?

*"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*  
John 17:25-26

==Anne Tuohy, Warden

## Noon Concert Series at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Evanston

St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Evanston has begun a Noon Concert Series, and Dillon is set to perform this month! May's **Noon** Concert will take place on **Monday, May 16** at St. Mark's (1509 Ridge Ave, Evanston). Parking is limited to street parking, but there is plenty around within walking distance. Dillon will offer a 30-minute recital featuring work for piano and organ. An offering will be collected to support the music ministries of St. Mark's. For more information, please contact Westley Hodges at [music@stmarksevanston.org](mailto:music@stmarksevanston.org).

# Christian Formation

## Sunday School

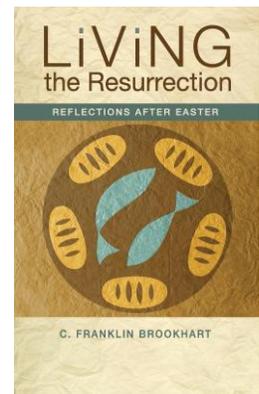
Children's Sunday School will take place on **May 1 and May 15**. Children can gather beginning **at 9:45 am** for a time of soft gathering - coloring, visiting, reading, etc., in the upstairs classroom. Formation will begin **at 10:00 am** with Deidre McClurg and Carrie Miller-Mygatt, and will continue until around 10:40 am, when the children and leaders will join the rest of the congregation in the church for Holy Communion. If you are interested in participating via Zoom, contact Carrie Miller-Mygatt.

## Family Chapel

Family Chapel returns in person and on Zoom on **Wednesday May 11** and **Tuesday May 24** from **4:15-5:15 PM**. Our families are invited to join Adam in the St. Elisabeth's Chapel twice a month for a time of prayer and discussion about the seasons of the Church Year and our Episcopal tradition. If you would like to join on Zoom, please let Adam or Carrie Miller-Mygatt know.

## Eastertide Adult Formation

During the Easter season, all are invited to join Dillon as he guides us through four weeks of discussion on The Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart's book "*Living the Resurrection: Reflections after Easter*." We'll examine how we live out our call as Christians to be "resurrection people." How do we take the Eastertide stories we hear on Sundays in church into our hearts and lives, living as though we believe resurrection to be a reality? Brookhart, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana, takes these stories of resurrection and illuminates a way for Christians and seekers to explore life in the new creation. Tying the Gospel narrative to our lives as followers of Jesus, he proposes a means for transforming people and churches through living into the resurrection with our Risen Lord. Head to your favorite bookseller to purchase a copy and join us in the Guild Room at St. E's and on Zoom on the following Wednesdays at 7:00pm as we explore this book together.



May 11: Chapters 1-3  
 May 18: Chapters 4-6  
 May 25: Chapters 7-9  
 June 1: Chapters 10-12



**Parish Picnic** – Sunday June 5

**Pride Day** – Sunday, June 26

## Voices on the Vestry

### Youth are Important Members of St. Elisabeth's

Everyone's voice is important at St. Elisabeth's. We are a community – an extended family trying to follow the way of Jesus. We worship together. We learn together. We serve others together. We play together. We have different roles at different times, and together we minister to one another and take this ministry out into the larger community.

When we were beginning our search for a new rector in 2019, we reached out to listen to everyone of all ages in the parish. The search committee led small focus group conversations around hopes, needs, priorities, questions of members. These conversations contributed to developing a profile of our parish to share with potential candidates. They led us to encourage greater youth participation in our virtual worship and to find new ways to gather with families. Longer term, they continue to provide direction to the vestry and Adam, our rector.

Immediately, the vestry realized how especially we valued the questions and comments of our young people and wanted to find ways regularly to tap into their wisdom and insights.

For many years the larger Episcopal Church has been including youth representatives in the largest decision-making event in the church, General Convention, so it seemed the next step for St. Elisabeth's was to include youth on our vestry. Abigail Shanley-Roberts joined the vestry in January 2020 and served until her much too early death late that spring. Anne Thornton and John Arnell were members of the vestry until they left for college in the fall of 2021. Lizzy Arnell became a member of the vestry in January 2022 and is joined by Duke Baur whose 16<sup>th</sup> birthday this month makes him a full voting member.

These young people are a great addition! They have a wide array of talents and interests. They provide profound insights during our reflection times. They ask wonderful questions that adults are often reluctant to ask and thus begin some valuable discussions. They remind us that everyone has busy schedules and pulls on their time but can and want to make time for what they value. They make us think in fresh ways and add zest to our planning. They are a constant reminder that one of the best aspects of being a member of St. Elisabeth's is that we are a lively multi-generational community who love each other and learn from each other.

The vestry terms of our youngest members are always too short, but we thank God for the time they share with us and hope they will continue to share with our parish new insights they develop during their college days. As we gather for parish fellowship, take time to talk with our youth and thank them for being part of our community. They will make you smile and be glad.

--Anne Tuohy, Warden

## The Vestry Welcomes Two Youth Members

The parish welcomes two new youth voices to the vestry. Elected to serve at the 2022 Annual Meeting, both Lizzy Arnell, a junior at Highland Park High School, and Duke Baur, a sophomore at New Trier High School, are eager to add their perspective to the vestry and to do their part to help St Elisabeth grow.

*By Joyce Newcomb*



Lizzy began coming to St. Elisabeth's with her family in 2012. She is the daughter of Carla Arnell and Paul Lucas and the sister of John and Zuzu. She has enjoyed becoming more and more involved in church activities. Besides participating in pre-pandemic soup kitchen duties and Family Promise, Lizzy has been an acolyte since 2016. Lizzy explains that Family Promise gave her the opportunity to help others with less time and fewer resources to prepare meals. Helping others is a priority for Lizzy. She is an active member of her high school's UNICEF Key Club and volunteers for its Feed my Starving Children program.

Besides her studies (biology is her favorite subject) Lizzy is a member of the HPHS gymnastics' team, a sport she loves. "Although I enjoy all the events, the floor exercises allow me to explore the more artistic part of the sport," she said.

Lizzy is pleased to be learning more about the operational side of St. Elisabeth's and is happy to be a part of the range of voices on the vestry.



Duke, who turns 16 this month, has been coming to St. Elisabeth's almost since birth. He was baptized here and studied for confirmation here. As soon as he met the age requirement, he became an acolyte and is working his way toward becoming senior acolyte. "Except for Mary," he said with a little laugh, "I have played every role in the Christmas pageant." He is the son of Jim and Polly Baur and the older brother of Rocky, who is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader.

A New Trier sophomore, Duke prefers math and science subjects and is a member of the high school's Science Olympiad team, his favorite competition being the environmental and field events. In addition, Duke plays the saxophone in the high school's jazz band, jams with a group of friends, and plays water polo.

Duke is looking forward to helping the vestry plan programs for younger folks at St. Elisabeth's. He is 100 per cent behind establishing a youth group and hopes to add his perspective on other ways to draw in young people. "I want everyone to know that I am always available and willing to help," he said.

## Paws for Patrick

Paws for Patrick is a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting young people to emotional support animals (ESAs) to aid them as they live with mental illness.

Mental health is not a local story, it's a national crisis. Yet, for one family, in particular, it is extremely personal and it began at home. Patrick Roemer (grandson of Carol Heitman Mazzocco and great-nephew of Joyce Newcomb) struggled with depression and anxiety throughout most of his young life. This disease took him from his loved ones just months before he would have graduated from Lake Forest High School. His family founded Paws for Patrick in his memory to connect young people with emotional support animals (ESAs) as they live with mental illness.



Paws for Patrick successfully has connected with over 60 clients helping them to acquire an ESA for themselves or their family since last August. "Every time one of our clients receives his or her ESA I feel like it's Patrick reaching out to them and giving them a hug," says Fronzie Roemer, Patrick's mother. Indeed, clients have used words such as "changed my life", "makes my life worth living", and "gives me a purpose" in describing their feelings after receiving an ESA from Paws for Patrick.

This is especially important because, according to a report by the National Alliance on Mental Illness entitled "Mental Health by the Numbers", the average delay between onset of mental illness symptoms and treatment is 11 years. And the Roemers know from personal experience the many barriers that exist in helping someone live with mental illness.

This May, in recognition of National Mental Health Awareness month, Paws for Patrick has launched several initiatives to fulfill their mission to raise awareness and break the stigma around mental illness. Here at St. E's, we will join other businesses and community organizations in putting out lawn signs and green ribbons for national mental health awareness month.

For more information, contact Molly Sarver at 312-259-0124 or [mollysarver71@gmail.com](mailto:mollysarver71@gmail.com).

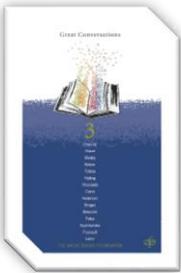
## A Prayer Vigil for Ukraine



The Glencoe Clergy Association invites you to an Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Ukraine on Sunday evening, May 15, 5:00 PM. The Campenella Choir, made up mostly of Ukrainian and Russian children, will perform a couple of Ukrainian songs as part of the Vigil. The Vigil will be held in Kalk Park in Glencoe, with the rain location to be at Glencoe Union Church. Please contact Adam for more information.

## St E's Book Group

### What Leads to Failure?



St. E's Book Group will discuss Plutarch's "Life of Nicias" at its regular meeting, May 10, at noon in the Parish living room. This biography is the second selection in the Great Books Foundation's anthology **Great Conversations 4**. The selection is one of the 48 biographies of famous Greek and Roman men included in **Parallel Lives**.

Written by Plutarch in the second century AD, the book is still studied today not only for its historical value but also for its examination of character. By portraying statesmen, military commanders, and legislators with all their outstanding virtues and immense flaws, Plutarch intended to ascertain models for ethical behavior. In "The Life of Nicias,"

which centers around a critical event occurring midpoint in the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC), Plutarch scrutinizes an extremely wealthy Athenian general and politician who leads a disastrous military expedition that, according to Plutarch, begins the downfall of a great city-state.

One question the Book Group will consider is whether history is best understood by the character and behavior of historical leaders or by examining the processes of historical events. The group meets monthly and follows current COVID-19 guidelines. Drop-ins are always welcome. A loaner copy of **Great Conversations 4** is available in the office. Questions? Email Joyce Newcomb at [JoyceRNewcomb@gmail.com](mailto:JoyceRNewcomb@gmail.com).

## St Elisabeth's Welcome Statement

*"This faith community invites all persons to all levels of participation, leadership and decision-making within the church regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, socioeconomic and marital status. We seek to establish meaningful connections with one another through work and play and worship as we strive to understand God's purpose for us in the church and in the world."*

This statement was developed by the LGBTQ team and adopted by the Vestry in 2018. It emerged from the Vestry's multi-year, multi-faceted strategic plan and goal to become "THE place on the north shore for interfaith and intercultural understanding brought to life by a caring and active presence in the world." To further this process, the Vestry created several strategic initiatives. One of those, the LGBTQ initiative, helped move us closer to our goal by sponsoring Pride Sunday in June, offering videos and workshops explaining pronouns and the alphabet soup of LGBTQ+, participating in the Pride Parade with the Coalition of Welcoming Churches, and hosting one of the first lesbian weddings in Illinois.

In 2018, the LGBTQ team with input from the Vestry developed the welcome statement, which reaches beyond LGBTQ to include people of all different backgrounds, identities and abilities. The statement appears in the LGBTQ link on our website and in the church bulletin on Pride Sunday once a year. Now the plan is to have it in the bulletin year-round and feature it more prominently on our website.

So much remains to be done to promote welcome and understanding in the church and in the world. Our welcome statement is a start. In the words of former Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori, "God has created us in myriad diversity, and no one sort or condition of human being can fully reflect the divine. Only the whole human race begins to be an adequate mirror of the divine." With God's grace and your help, St. Elisabeth's will continue to work towards greater care, acceptance, understanding, and inclusion of all God's people.

## Easter Sunday 2022



## Thank you

To the members of St. Elisabeth's, thank you so much for contributing to the Easter Music and Flower Funds. Your donations in memory or in honor of loved ones and family were so generous. Beautiful music and choir performances were enjoyed in Church or via Facebook Live. Festive Altar flowers helped us to celebrate the Easter Season.

A special thank you to Adrienne and Rod Zimmerman for planting the beautiful Spring flowers in containers at the entrances to the Church. The bright tulips and pansies welcomed us for a Service of Tenebrae on Thursday evening of Holy Week and for Easter Service on Sunday, April 17, 2022.

Thank you to Reverend Adam Spencer, Dillon Shipman, Pam Green and members of the Vestry for their extensive planning and leadership throughout Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Carrie Mygatt planned the Easter Egg Hunt. It was a tremendous success and enormous fun!

Sincerely, Anne Healy

## Saint Elisabeth's Calendar

### *Regular Weekly Schedule*

#### **Sundays**

8:00 AM Traditional Language Holy Communion in the church (& via FBL).

10:00 AM Inclusive Language Holy Communion in the church (& via FBL).

#### **Mondays**

7:15 PM – Boy Scout Troop #28

8:00 PM – AA Group

#### **Saturdays**

5:00 PM – AA Group

\*(FBL) Facebook Live

### *Special Events*

#### **Sunday, May 1**

Sunday School

#### **Tuesday, May 10**

Noon St. E's Book Group

7:15 PM Vestry Meeting

#### **Wednesday, May 11**

4:15 PM Family Chapel

#### **Thursday, May 12**

Soup Kitchen

#### **Sunday, May 15**

Sunday School

#### **Tuesday, May 24**

4:15 PM Family Chapel

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