

St. George's Episcopal Church

Uniting in Worship.
Welcoming in Grace.



5224 Minnetonka Boulevard

St. George's Episcopal Church

This is a free publication for members and friends

Saint Louis Park, MN 55416

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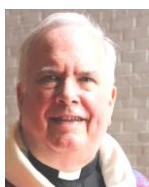
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April 2021

Volume 28, No. 4

TO BE ALIVE!!

by The Rev. Tom Gehlsen



We are approaching Easter, the central foundation of our Christian faith. This is the day that Christ rose from the dead, the day that we celebrate the LIVING Christ. Shouldn't this be a day that we confirm Christ living in us? It is important to ask ourselves, "Are we keeping Christ alive in our lives?"

"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. So, I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not one of those who treats Christ's death as meaningless..."

-Galatians 2: 20 – 21

We are called to be ALIVE in and for Christ!
Alive so we are:

- alert and animated,
- having interest and meaning,
- to be aware of and interested in,
- prevalent and very active,
- continuing to be supported or in use.

Can we use these to describe our relationship with Christ? Is our connection: alert, animated, prevalent, meaningful, active, in use? Or is what we experience with Christ different, even something less than that? Why is that?

What does Christ's Life, Death, and Resurrection really mean to our *daily* lives?

If we experience the Risen Christ, can we actually move on with our lives as if things are the same as before? Were our old selves truly "crucified with Christ?" And why has the phrase "born again" become symbolic with fundamentalism? Aren't all Christians "born again?" Would we describe ourselves in this way, or perhaps more significantly – **why don't we?**



WHAT'S HAPPENING? LENTEN FORUM

by The Rev. Tom Gehlsen

During the season of Lent, on Wednesday evenings a group of our community have been reading and discussing the book: **Me & White Supremacy: Combating Racism**, authored by Layla Saad. The group has been reading the book and using the accompanying journal to answer specific questions and ideas offered by the author.

The book challenges us to do the essential work of unpacking our biases, and help us take action, and dismantle the privilege within ourselves so that we can stop, often unconsciously, inflicting damage on people of color, and in turn help all of us realize that awareness leads to action and action leads to change.

There have been a lot of interesting and respectful discussions that have allowed the group to Investigate where we are as individuals, as well as of members of society that experience and benefit from white privilege.”



PARISHIONER PROFILE

Parishioner Profile of the Month, Devin Snyders and Family

My name is Devin Snyders. My wife Kelly and our three children (Brendon-20, Calista-18, Nolyn-12) have been members of St George's since 2015. We have lived in St Louis Park since before our marriage in 2007 and were wedded by former St. George's Rev Paul Allick. Both Brendon and Calista served as acolytes and participated in the youth group, and Nolyn is currently active in both. I currently work at United Healthcare while Kelly is the head of our non-profit athletic organization (Minnesota Flyers Track and Field) of which we both are coaches. We remain active in the community and local school districts. Brendon and Calista will be a junior and sophomore respectively at Minnesota State University in the fall, while Nolyn will be starting 8th grade at the Hopkins School District. We enjoy being an active family spending time outdoors with family and friends.

(1) What was the worst style choice you ever made? Everything from 1999-2003.

(2) You have to sing karaoke. What song do you pick? I've always been partial to "Ghostbusters" by Ray Parker Jr. If not available, anything from the Bee Gees.

(3) If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be and why? Alaska, because I love the mountains and wilderness.

(4) If you could instantly become an expert in something, what would it be? Biomechanics or regular mechanics.

(5) Are you a cat or dog person? Dog. But somehow we have four cats.



HYMNS

by John Hoffacker, D.M.A., Music Director

Has anything changed since 1982? Has music changed since then? Has religious experience changed? Episcopalians still use the same hymnal, but there's lots of new music out there for us to bring into worship — and some of it's coming from just a few miles east of here.

Marty Haugen moved to Eagan in the late 1980s, and from him we've been given an incredible variety of hymnody. No other composer/poet today creates congregational music across such a wide spectrum. Much of his music evokes the folk revival of the 60s and 70s, but you also hear the influence of chant, African music, and many other styles, as well as his own unique idiom.

Haugen's poetry illuminates many themes, too, including social justice, the nature of God, our relationship with Jesus, and prayer. A collection of Haugen hymns is a comprehensive look at how (and what) Christians worship today. Americans of all faiths enjoy singing his music.

Even more popular around the world as hymnwriters are the team of Keith Getty, his wife Kristyn, and Stuart Townend. Their vision is more focused than Haugen's, coming from their work on the intersection between commercial pop music and traditional hymns. The Gettys come from Northern Ireland, so singing is deep in their bones. Their music sounds like it belongs in church.

Bringing new music into worship means sifting through thousands of hymns and finding not just a balance of old and new, but what can contribute to the spiritual moment for worshippers. Sometimes an old song about Jesus loving us is just right, and sometimes it's time for us to get up, get moving, and get to changing this world.

The soul speaks in music. Hymns of all the ages tell our stories and move us to deeper faith, richer understanding, and passionate service.

A BIT OF (RECENT) HISTORY

by Camille Schroeder

As Lent is coming to an end and we are almost in the Easter season, many of us are decorating eggs for our children and/or for ourselves. For the past 25 or so years, I have been doing and teaching the art of Ukrainian eggs. You may have seen these eggs and probably have remarked how beautiful they are and also marveled at the artistic talent that produced them. Let me assure you that everyone can do these eggs.

The history of the art form is that many years ago they were a pagan art form. But as time passed and Christianity came into the world, the artwork on the eggs evolved into Christian symbols. That is what we have now. Some of the symbols are: ladders = prayer, circles = heaven and stars, triangles = holy trinity, and branches = long life and health. Each egg is unique.

The process is that you write on the egg with a Kistka (a special tool) filled with beeswax. Different layers of color are used to dye the egg and at the end the wax is removed and there, magically, is a beautifully decorated egg. I have done these eggs with all ages. Of course, the toddler children need a lot of help but it can be done. I hope that next year we can get together and do some eggs. Although as I sit here I'm wondering if we should do some Christmas eggs. Who says they just have to be for Easter. Hmmm. Let me know if you'd like to do this. (I'm assuming the COVID restrictions will be over.) Happy Easter.



EDUCATION UPDATE

Submitted by Heather Whitesell
Education Coordinator

Children's Corner

The kids have spent the six weeks of Lent learning the significance of the Seven Sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Healing, Confirmation, Marriage and Ordination.

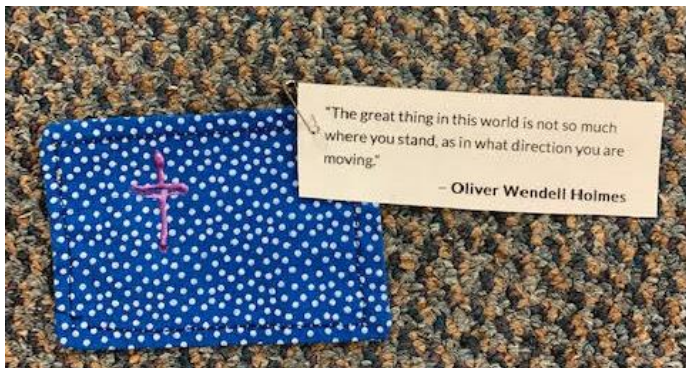
Youth News

Hope is in the air with the coming of Easter, vaccine distribution and the arrival of spring. Youth have been busy working on prayer squares soon to be available for pick up by parishioners. I offer below this prayer of rebirth.

Prayer of Rebirth through the Sacraments

Through the sacraments of my faith, I'm reborn. God's grace enters my soul like a refreshing breeze that rustles the leaves of the trees in a spring garden. My soul awakens with new life and rejoices because, once again, I am with my Savior, the One who loves me. Together, we walk through the garden and about all that is important to me.

I pray, dear Lord, that you will always be pleased to find your home in the garden of my soul. May you always take delight in my love for you, a love that blooms like the first rose of springtime. (Posted by Lisa Duffy.)



Prayer Squares



WHAT IS "ST. G STRATEGY"?

by Bruce Becker

To say that things changed over the last year is an understatement. However, even before COVID hit, we were seeing things change at St. George's. Attendance was down, our finances were stretched, and our physical plant needed a lot of work. With the lingering effects of COVID unknown, it was decided to form a group of members of the parish to explore what we would like the future of St. George's to look like. Named "St. G Strategy", this group will explore several questions on what St. George's could look like in 5 years and report back to the Vestry for their consideration of specific actions.

The members of the committee are:

- Bruce Becker (Chair)
- Tom Gehlsen
- Rachel Santos
- John Rash
- Jane Jacobson
- Fran Bly
- Tom Harmon
- Ellen Doering

Anyone who has thoughts on this subject is encouraged to pass them along to any member of St. G Strategy.



We give a big thank you to Carole Leonard for sharing her time, wisdom, and energy in taking on multiple tasks in the office while Heather has been ill. She deserves a cape for her super hero tendencies!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MINNESOTA

A LETTER FROM BISHOP LOYA

Beloved in Christ,

The church has left the building.

That's a phrase I have often heard over the past year, as all of us have had our normal ways of gathering for worship disrupted and we've had to find new ways of connecting and coming together to worship God. While it has been deeply painful, it has also been an important, if long overdue, lesson for us to really internalize: The point of the church is not to gather in a building for some edifying rituals and then get back to real life. The point of the church is to *be* the body of Christ out in the world.

In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus fashions a whip and starts driving out those selling animals for sacrifice or exchanging money in the temple. When the clergy understandably ask him "what gives?" he essentially tells them that I, my body, is now the temple; I am where God dwells. God has left the building, and the place we worship is the body of Jesus. The question for us then, if God has traded the building for Jesus as a primary dwelling, is *where do we find Jesus? Where do we go to worship this Jesus?*

We start by looking at the places where Jesus tended to hang out, and at the people he tended to hang out with. He hangs out with a Samaritan woman who is not only an ethnic enemy, but a social outcast. He meets up with a blind man reduced to begging, whom no one would embrace because his blindness was understood to be punishment for sin. Jesus hangs out with those who are enemies, those who are unclean, those who are unworthy, those who are suffering, those who are pushed aside, and those who are forgotten.

So we will find and worship Jesus wherever the pain is: at homeless camps; in the streets, crying out for racial justice and healing; in the forgotten and broken places of your own heart.

Both the good news and the challenge for us in this moment is that God's presence is not limited to one particular place. God is not some ethereal idea or vague notion that's way out there somewhere. Our God is on the move, and our God shows up in the person of Jesus. Where are you, where are we, spotting Jesus in our lives, in our communities, and in our world? In this moment, how are we showing the world God's amazing love?

Keep the faith,

The Right Reverend Craig Loya
X Bishop
Episcopal Church in Minnesota

JUSTICE FOR GEORGE FLOYD & BLACK LIBERATION

With the trial of Derek Chauvin beginning this week, we know that many people in the Twin Cities and beyond are feeling anew the trauma of centuries of racial injustice and oppression, particularly Black, brown, and Indigenous people. In addition to the sometimes-overwhelming media discourse about these issues, we offer the resources below for your prayerful attention.

- First, [please watch this fierce and prophetic conversation hosted by United Theological Seminary](#) last Tuesday.
- Second, one of ECMN's disciples, Edwin Swaray, has generously shared his experiences working as a Black behavioral health provider, providing services to Black clients here in Minnesota. [Read that piece here.](#)
- Third, **Healing Our City** is offering daily prayer for racial justice in Minnesota. [Learn more here.](#)



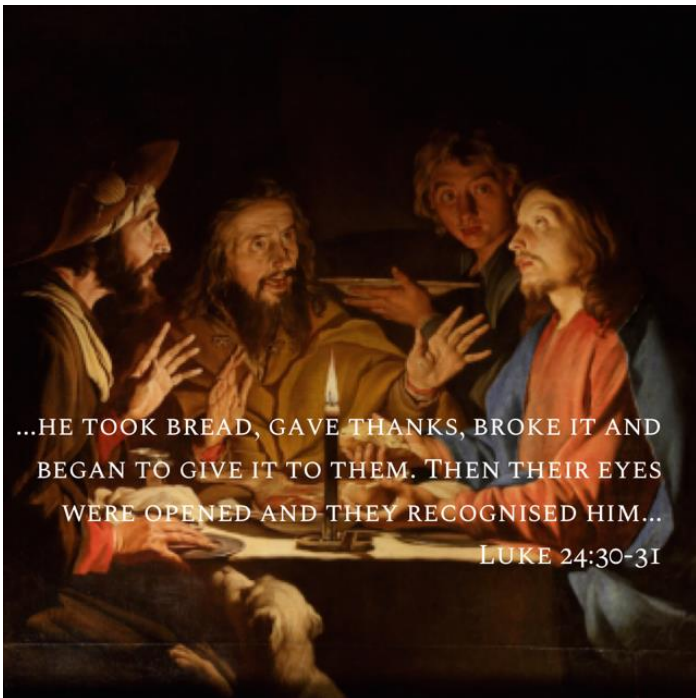
ST. LOUIS PARK EMERGENCY PROGRAM

by Camille Schroeder

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the virtual edition of Empty Bowls 2021. While this was not ideal, it did the job --- people were able to get soup, buy a handmade bowl, and enjoy the Park TV program. Let's hope that next year we can be together for this event.

If you have not donated to STEP for the MN FoodShare March Campaign, there is still time. Food donations as well as monetary donations will be credited to the FoodShare Campaign if the donation is made by April 11. While this takes extra effort on your part, do understand that the need is great.

STEP continues to give rent/mortgage assistance to those in need. As the eviction edict expires, the need will be even greater. Fortunately, STEP is the recipient of money from several government agencies. However, the need continues to exist. Your monetary donations to this fund will help immensely.



...HE TOOK BREAD, GAVE THANKS, BROKE IT AND
BEGAN TO GIVE IT TO THEM. THEN THEIR EYES
WERE OPENED AND THEY RECOGNISED HIM...
LUKE 24:30-31



Ask the Rector!

This is your opportunity to ask all those questions you may have about the church, faith, religion or whatever is on your mind. Questions and their answers will be posted in the next newsletter.

Send questions to Sarah Schulte schultemsb@yahoo.com and indicate if you would like your name included with the question. Don't be shy, all questions are welcome!

Welcome Committee



As we continue to reach out to St. George parishioners, we want to make sure all information is up to date. If you have a change in your contact information, please send your updated phone number, address, and/or email to Sarah Schulte at schulteMSB@yahoo.com or 612-201-5731.

If you have a request for "thinking of you" cards and notes, Jane Sandsmark is writing the cards of support to our parishioners. Please email, call, or text any request for cards of support to Jane. Mjsandsmark@gmail.com 952-221-4004. Thank you!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gregg Jacobson
- 6 Ed Altmeyer
- 7 John Carlson
- 15 Mark Schulte
- 21 Geri Alberg
- 22 Amanda Swartwood
- 23 Sonja Kilberg



Check out the events in April!

APRIL 2021

ALL EVENTS ARE ONLINE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 pm Maundy Thursday service (Zoom)	2 12 noon - Good Friday Service (Zoom)	3
4 Easter Sunday 9 am – Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30 am – HE, Rite II (Livestream worship service)	5 10 am Covid Response Team (Zoom)	6	7 11 am- GBD (Zoom)	8	9	10
11 9 am – Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30 am Morning Prayer (Livestream Worship Service)	12 7 pm Finance (Zoom)	13	14 11 am- GBD (Zoom) 7 pm – Peer Support –closed (PH)	15 10:30 am Welcoming Committee (Zoom)	16	17
18 9 am – Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30 am - Morning Prayer (Livestream worship service)	19 10 am Covid Response Team (Zoom) 12 pm – Women of St. George (Zoom) 7 pm – Vestry (Zoom)	20	21 11 am- GBD (Zoom)	22	23	24
25 9 am – Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30 am – Morning Prayer (Livestream Worship Service)	26	27	28 11 am- GBD (Zoom) 7 pm – Peer Support – closed (PH)	29	30	

**GOSPEL-BASED DISCIPLESHIP – 11 A.M. EVERY WEDNESDAY – <https://zoom.us/j/397934453>
Meeting ID: 397 934 453 – You may also join audio by phone: +1 312 626 6799**

KEY: GBD – Gospel-based Discipleship HE – Holy Eucharist CEB – Christian Education Building
LL – Library Lounge G – Garden PH – Parish Hall



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

	April 4 Easter Sunday	April 11 Second Sunday of Easter	April 18 Third Sunday of Easter	April 25 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Readings	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 Gospel: John 20: 1-18	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 Gospel: John 20:19-31	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 2 Gospel: John 19:11-18
Lectors	Caryl Eschweiler	Devin Synders	Mary Weekes	Claudia Hoffacker

Easter is always a lovely occasion to remember and be thankful for people and organizations that make our life a song of resurrection praise. These people have made contributions this season in memory or thanksgiving to support St. George's ministries of altar flowers, music, or outreach.

- Bill Stromberg and Kitty Reese in memory of all the people worldwide who have died from COVID-19.
- Carole Leonard in memory of my grandparents, Catherine and Harry Holick.
- Kathie Brown in memory of my parents, Cy and Shirley Brown, and in thanksgiving for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Leslie O'Donnell in memory of my parents, Cy and Shirley Brown, and in memory of Ed O'Donnell's mother, Joan Weisbeck, and his sister, Anne Wilson, and in thanksgiving for our granddaughter Isla Olufson.
- Betty Bauer in memory of my husband, Tom, and my son, Steve.
- Barbara Behrens in memory of Ron Zaltz.
- Diane McGowan and Mitch Pearlstein in thanksgiving for St. George's church.
- Jane and Mike Sandsmark in thanksgiving for our family and our health.
- Lou Michelich in thanksgiving for my family and in memory of my parents, Elizabeth and Peter Michelich, and Rosalie's parents, Solveig and Anthony Rocchio.
- Lou Michelich in memory of Rosalie Michelich.
- Mark and Sarah Schulte in thanksgiving for those who continue to bring music into our community, and in memory of those who have been lost to COVID-19.

NOTE: This list may be incomplete. If you have a correction, please email JohnHoffacker@gmail.com

About St. George's

5224 Minnetonka Boulevard
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-926-1646

www.stgeorgesonline.org

Office hours Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

PARISH STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Thomas J. Gehlsen,
Ph.D. tomg@stgeorgesonline.org

Deacon: The Rev. Diane McGowan
smarl@aol.com

Parish Administrator, Heather Grieger
office@stgeorgesonline.org

Music Director, John Hoffacker, D.M.A.
johnh@stgeorgesonline.org

Children and Youth Coordinator,
Heather Whitesell
heatherw@stgeorgesonline.org

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE:

Christina Christensen, Mezzo-soprano
William Vaughn, Bass

VESTRY:

Kathleen Boe, Rector's Warden; Sarah
Schulte, Parish Warden; Jane
Sandmark, Cyprian Troyer, Jill Burns,
Gregg Jacobson, Bruce Becker, Rachel
Santos, and Bruce Wachutka.

Clerk of the Vestry:

Laura Harmon

Parish Treasurer:

Connie Kotula

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE NOW ONLINE WITH ZOOM

Sunday Worship and Hymn of the Day.
Join Sunday worship service a bit early to
participate in Hymn of the Day.

9:00 a.m. Hymn of the Day
9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Zoom Meeting
for both:
<https://zoom.us/j/141788041>

Meeting ID: 141-788-041

You may also join audio by phone:
+1 312 626 6799

If you are unable to attend our Sunday
service on Zoom or would prefer the
recorded version, we have a VIMEO
channel where you can easily access
past services.

Video recordings:

vimeo.com/channels/StGeorgesSLP