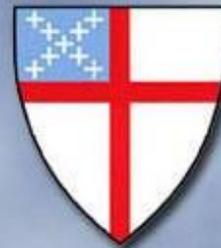


St. George's Episcopal Church

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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May 2021

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WHEN WILL IT STOP!

by The Rev. Tom Gehlsen



In the many conversations I've engaged in over the course of the last few months the condition of our community and country usually fits right at the top. In talking, I listen and hear much concern regarding this condition. The conversations also reflect much anger, hatred, and racism. Never in all the years of my ministry have I witnessed a more visceral response from the American public.

If we call ourselves Christian and say we adhere to the ministry and teaching of one Jesus Christ proclaimed at our Baptism, we need to look at our relationship with Christ and His ministry. We are accountable to Him in all we do and say, and maybe what we do not say or do most of all!

Because we say we love the Lord, His Word, and the Gospel, we must unreservedly reject all hatred, racism, and bigotry. There is no place for it in the heart of any Christian. Our focus needs to remain on the D&R (Death & Resurrection) event where we have been redeemed and transformed. We are asked to allow Christ and all that He is to permeate all that we are and all that we do. Let us get focused in the Christ Direction as that's the beginning force of resolve and reconciliation!



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. Mjandsmark@gmail.com 952-221-4004. Thank you!

RE-OPENING OF ST. GEORGE'S

Dear St. George's Community,

We continue to move forward on our plans to re-open to in-person worship in early July. With the Vestry's approval, we submitted our re-opening plan to the Diocese on April 14. We were pleased to get a response in a matter of days. While the plan is not approved, we think the changes that were requested were minor. We plan to resubmit the plan within a week and hope for a quick approval.

Meanwhile the re-opening team has begun implementing some of the changes that will be required before we re-open. If you visit the church, you will see signage throughout indicating that masks are required and social distancing is expected. In the near future, we will implement a check-in sheet for people to use. This is critical should we need to notify people of a COVID exposure. More information to follow.

We are also beginning to implement changes for worship itself. Some things in process:

- Development of a registration tool so that you can sign up in advance to attend worship.
- Ordering individual communion kits for worship.
- Removing prayer books, hymnals and other items from the worship space.
- Planning for how people will be seated in the pews to ensure social distancing.
- Planning for arrival and exit to ensure social distancing.
- Closing off areas of the church that we will not be using, such as the parish hall (with the exception of access to the restrooms).

As we get closer to re-opening, look for more information on how we will gather together. In addition to the newsletter and weekly email, we will plan on holding a Zoom meeting to discuss the worship changes. The re-opening team (Jane Sandsmark, Bill Stromberg, Gregg Jacobson, Sarah Schulte and Kathleen Boe) is looking forward to greeting all of you when we return to in-person worship.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Boe Sarah Schulte
Rector's Warden Parish Warden

PARISHIONER PROFILE



Parishioner Profile of the month: Suzy Garland

We asked Suzy to share a little about herself. Here's what she had to say.

I'm 71. I've lived in Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. I was married to my best friend for 32 years. I've had two boys who fortunately settled in Plymouth and Minneapolis. Both are computer guys. I feel blessed every day for this life. God has been very good to me. As an adult, I received my Masters degree from Kansas State. For employment, I was an administrator at a not for profit Lutheran-sponsored retirement community in Des Moines, where I managed 160 units of independent living for the well elderly for 20 years. My life has been rich, and full, and blessed.

1. **What's the best piece of advice you ever received?** "To thine own self be true."
2. **What's one of the ways you nurture your faith?** By being with my church family, Bible study, meditation.
3. **What is your favorite book or movie and what did you love about it?** I am an avid reader, my tastes are not typical though. I read science fiction and mysteries as a youngster. Robert Heinlin wrote 'A Door into Summer,' which comes to my mind as a very influential book for me. The message I got from it was: consider the possibilities, color outside the lines.
4. **If you could have dinner with any person from history or from the present, who would it be and why?** Good question, that's a hard one, I think Albert Einstein, or my Mom and Dad.
5. **What is one lesson you have learned over the last year?** It's okay to be alone, people need people, family is everything.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS UPDATE

by Carole Leonard, Chair of Buildings & Grounds

New roof for St. George's church: Due to hail damage, the church will be getting a new roof on the A-frame church as well as a new roof over the covered walkway by the garden court. The cost of this project will be covered by the church's insurance. We have received three bids from roofing companies, and now we need to select a company to complete the work. Once the roofing company has been selected, the project will need to be approved by the Finance Committee and the Vestry.

New fascia on A-frame church: The Renew the Dragon Campaign Project Team designated funds to cover the fascia of the east and west facing A-frame church with a white aluminum trim. Currently the fascias are devoid of paint. The aluminum will provide a maintenance-free surface.

Storeroom painted: Thanks to Gregg Jacobson, Kris Kelley and Carole Leonard for painting the storeroom located in the Parish Hall.

Playground refreshed: Fifty bags of cedar wood chips were recently added to the playground. Thank you to the staff at Little Flowers Montessori who offered to do the work of spreading the wood chips.

Gardening: Geri Alberg and Carole Leonard have begun work in the gardens. Geri cleaned up the garden court gardens and Carole trimmed a lot of large branches out of the bushes that surround the church. Bill Stromberg hooked up the three garden hoses around the property. All the flower gardens have been Preened to keep the weeds at bay. Check out the photo below of one lonely little jonquil flower that was growing up through the mulch in the garden court on April 10.



"He is risen indeed."

**"If but for one moment,
Love won."**

– Bishop Michael Curry

A BIT OF HISTORY

by Camille Schroeder

I wonder how many of you have spent time or even been in St. George's Library-Lounge. It is located in the southwest corner of the Quonset hut part of the church – next to the choir room. This particular room has had a designated function. One of St. George's early families saw to it that the room was to be used for Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and it has been used as such for many years. It is also used for any number of committee meetings.

It is a room where basketball trophies from the early years are displayed. Yes, St. George's had a midget basketball team, but in addition, St. George's had a basketball court. This was located in the parish hall prior to the ceiling being lowered. Lots of fun was had during the games and some trophies were won.

Another function of the room is a part of the name – Lounge. The room is available for use at most times should you need a space to relax and rest. It is also used as a dressing room for brides and their bridal parties. The room was updated in the nineties and it has served its purposes well.

Another function of the room is the other part of its name – Library. There are many books on the shelves and although most are quite old you just might find some interesting reading to be had. These books are available for you to borrow.

The most recent books are to be found in the corner on the top shelf of the bookshelves. These are written by Mary Kuhfeld of St. George's. She writes under a couple of pseudonyms – Monica Ferris and Mary Monica Pulver. You are welcome to borrow these if you would like. Simply write your name in the notebook next to the books and scratch your name off when you return the book. Happy reading.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bruce Becker
Addia Troyer
- 3 Wendy Herbers
Mildred Cox
- 5 John Rash
- 7 Joyce Gniot
Brian Salami
Calista Snyders
- 8 Leslie O'Donnell
Ron Holbach
- 12 Dan Westlund
- 13 Christie Kraabel
- 15 John Hoffacker
- 16 Peter Riola
- 19 Iris Alexander
- 20 Priscilla Hagerman
- 24 Mitch Pearlstein
- 27 Cathy Asgian
- 29 Diane Anderson
- 30 Grace KuKu



Separately in this newsletter, there is an update on our re-opening plans. As I was preparing the update, I thought you would be interested in the following. These are words, paraphrased from the Reverend Timothy M. Kingsley, Canon Pastor of the Cathedral of St. Mark's in Minneapolis that we took to heart as we developed the re-opening plan:

"This will be a season that requires establishing and committing to a new covenant for each of our communities as we gather again in person. It is critical that clergy, parish leaders and community members all commit to a covenant that will demonstrate Christian love and care and provide for the health and safety of every person. As a community, we covenant to abide and hold each other accountable to these selfless actions:

- We will honestly self-assess our health condition prior to travelling to St. George's.
- We will wash our hands carefully and completely.
- We will enter our spaces with care and intention.
- We will keep the recommended safe distance from others.
- We will wear masks that cover both the mouth and nose.

If we test positive, we will not enter upon the church property for any reason and will disclose our test result to our clergy or vestry member(s) so the church can provide assistance with quarantine, medical attention and take steps for the safety of the community.

If a member of our household or family tests positive, or if we believe that we have been exposed to the virus, we will not enter upon the church property for any reason for at least 14 days, and only then after we have self-assessed and received a negative COVID test.

We will assist with compassionate contact tracing.

For us as Christians, washing hands and wearing masks become acts of care and devotion. Our masks provide only limited protection to us, but much protection to others if we are unknowing asymptomatic carriers. In doing this, we are required to acknowledge two truths. First, that we live in community and Jesus commands love for our neighbor, sometimes above ourselves. Second, that we are not invincible nor invulnerable to transmission. We are, in very practical terms, each other's keeper. As we consider how we will gather together in person again, we realize our gathering will necessarily look different than it did before this season of pandemic. We now must remember and take care to protect every person present as well as everyone with whom they will have contact.

There is no shame when we act from selfless love. We will do this out of the abundance of our Christian love and service as we commit ourselves to this community covenant."

Source: The Rev. Timothy M. Kingsley, Canon Pastor

Sincerely,

Kathleen Boe



**A MESSAGE FROM
THE RIGHT REVEREND
CRAIG LOYA
X BISHOP
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN MN**

Beloved in Christ,

Yesterday morning I wept as I gathered with Healing Our City's virtual prayer tent and listened to [Imam Rami Nashahibi](#) reflect on the tender, motherly, inexhaustible compassion of God. My heart, like all of yours, is so heavy, as a city that is already carrying so much is handed one more dose of sorrow and anger. As most of you know, on Sunday night Brooklyn Center police killed Daunte Wright, an unarmed Black man, during a traffic stop. Daunte's killing resulted in a night of tense but largely peaceful protests, met with tear gas and less-lethal ammunition fired at protestors, and looting of Brooklyn Center shops. While we don't know much about the circumstances of Daunte's death, we do know that he was 20 years old and a beloved child of God.

There is a sickness in our society, a sickness that shows up over and over as deadly violence against Black and brown bodies by the very institutions and agencies that form the frame and foundation of our common life. This sickness, which infects every single one of us, cannot be rooted out by our good intentions, or more knowledge, or our own efforts. This sickness is a sin that possesses us and can only be healed by the divine mercy, our mother, the God of all compassion and peace. Our first call today is to join our sorrow, our tears, our anger, our longing for a better way to the voice of Isaiah who, when facing the systemic injustice in his own society, cried out to God: "Oh that you would tear open the heavens and come down. . ." (64:1) The transformation and healing we so desperately need asks for our whole lives, and our whole life together, and it must be grounded in daily lament, crying out for God to tear open the heavens and come

down, and daily repentance, a commitment to letting the divine mercy break us open and thoroughly possess our sin-sick souls, so that each breath we are given might be an offering of God's perfect love working through us. As we continue to hold the trauma of these times, I commend to you again the incredible interfaith work being done by [Healing Our City](#). Their morning prayer vigil, held every day at 8am, is a truly healing and restorative space. You can always find a recording of the vigil after the fact on their Facebook page if you cannot attend in real time.

Oh God, tear open the heavens and come down to the family of Daunte Wright today, to the city of Brooklyn Center today, to the Twin Cities today, to the state of Minnesota today, to all who have ever feared or been hurt by police or the prison system, to all Black and Indigenous and Latine people who are disproportionately targeted by the police. Oh God, tear open the heavens and come down to us today.





Check out the events in May!

ALL EVENTS ARE ONLINE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 am – Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30 am – Livestream worship service	3	4	5 11 am- GBD (Zoom))	6	7	8
9 MOTHER'S DAY 9 am – Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30 am Livestream worship service	10 10 a.m. COVID Response Team (Zoom) 7 pm Finance (Zoom)	11	12 11 am- GBD (Zoom)) 7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	13	14	15
16 9 am – Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30 am Livestream worship service	17 12 pm – Women of St. George (Zoom) 7 pm – Vestry (Zoom)	18	19 11 am- GBD (Zoom))	20 10:30 am Welcoming Committee (Zoom)	21	22
23 9 am – Hymn of the Day (Zoom) 9:30 am (Livestream Worship Service)	24	25	26 11 am- GBD (Zoom)) 7 pm – Peer Support Group - closed (PH)	27	28	29
30 9 am – Hymn of the Day 9:30 am – Livestream worship service	31 MEMORIAL DAY					

**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

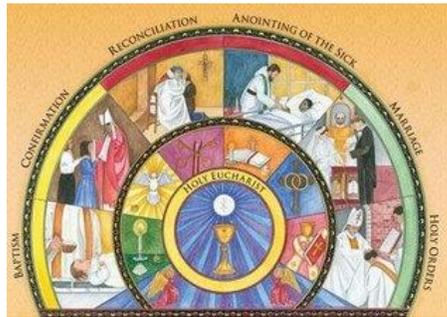


MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

	May 2 Fifth Sunday after Easter	May 9 Sixth Sunday after Easter	May 16 Seventh Sunday after Easter	May 23 The Day of Pentecost	May 30 First Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday
Readings	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:24-30 John 15:1-8	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 John 15:9-17	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 John 17:6-19	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:25-35,37 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Romans 8:12-17 Psalm 29 John 3:1-17
Lectors	Darlynn Benjamin	Jean Wayne	Mark Schulte	Carole Leonard	Carole Leonard

EDUCATION UPDATE

by Heather Whitesell,
Education Coordinator



We've learned about the Seven Sacraments and their significance to us as Christians. The kids will be thinking about their own strengths and what they can offer to the parish community. Peace and Justice will be our final topic for reflection. Enjoy the following springtime prayer:

Metaphor for Change

Spring is a metaphor for change. Some changes we eagerly await, and some we abhor. Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited. To all these changes we ask the gift of Your perspective beckoning us to expectation, hope, and rebirth. May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too. Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name.



A THANK YOU FROM ROXY ZAUN

I just want to thank my St. George's family for all the prayers for healing, cards, phone calls and flowers. Prayer is what brought me through this last surgery. You are all the best!

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