

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

connect@stgeorgesonline.org

952-926-1646

January 2022

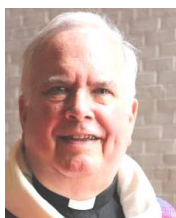
Volume 29, No. 1

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 30

A visit from Bishop Loya

By The Rev. Tom Gehlsen



Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, January 30! On that day we will have a special! (Kinda sounds like the opening of the Mickey Mouse Club on Thursday afternoons back in the '50s!)

On that day we will have a visit from our Bishop, Craig W. Loya X. He will be with us to celebrate the Eucharist, sign official documents of the parish, preach, and, I hope, meet with the congregation after the service. A Bishop is to make annual visitations to all the parishes he oversees. However, due to the size and number of parishes and missions, the Bishop of Minnesota usually will visit every other year.

Along with the Bishop, I have invited Reverend Rena Turnham, an Archdeacon, to join us as well. Sometimes Archdeacons travel with the Bishop to assist if there is no Deacon. I invited Rena as she is a good friend of mine and we ministered together at St. Stephen's. She and Diane will assist the Bishop during the celebration of the Eucharist.

The Bishop will review and sign documents regarding past baptisms, confirmations and the like. He will also, I'm sure, want to meet with the congregation after the service. At this point we do not have any set plans. I have two meetings scheduled with his Missioner.

It is my hope that as many as possible will be present for the Eucharist on that day. It's an honor to host and welcome the Bishop. Bishop Loya is a true leader for

the ECMN. He is one who listens and welcomes conversation and is innovative in his ministry. Please keep Bishop Loya in your prayers as he continues his ministry in Minnesota.



The Right Reverend Craig Loya
X Bishop, Episcopal Church in Minnesota

And going into the
house, they saw the
child with Mary his
mother, and they fell
down and worshiped
him.

Matthew 2:11



Celebrating Eucharist with Wine

By Kathleen Boe, Rector's Warden



I think we've all felt that that communion, for the past few months, has been a bit incomplete without wine. Starting with the 4th Sunday in Advent, we began offering wine as part of communion.

Due to the ongoing concerns about Covid, we used a communion tray with small plastic cups. Father Tom consecrated the wine during the Eucharistic Prayer. Chalice Bearers stood to each side of Father Tom during communion and offered each communicant a cup. There was a small trash can nearby to dispose of the plastic cup when it was empty.

It was nice to have this back – along with the chalice bearers processing with the cross. I am not sure what “normal” is anymore in regards to all this, but this does feel comforting.

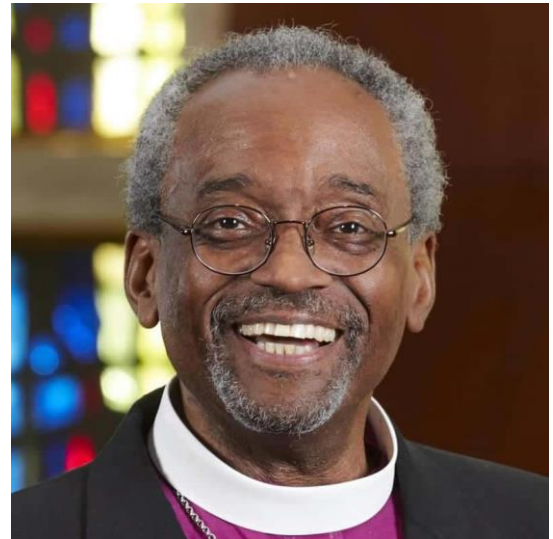
As concerns about the Omicron variant grow, we had to make the decision to return to bread only for the Christmas Services and for the near future. We will be ready to offer wine once more when the high risk of this variant passes. We will continue to monitor the situation.



Get Ready and Save the Date!!

The Faith and Life Lecture series for February 1 will feature Presiding Bishop Michael Curry!!

Faith & The Way of Love: Finding Hope in Troubled Times Tuesday, February 1, at 7 p.m.



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

The Faith & Life Lecture Series exists to create welcoming and accessible public forums for members of the Twin Cities community to hear nationally known speakers reflect on how Christian faith is related to different dimensions of everyday life. The talks are always free public events. The lectures typically last about 50 minutes, followed by a brief period for Q&A after the presentation by the speaker.

After the Q&A, speakers are generally available for one-on-one discussion with members of the audience during an informal reception. At most lectures, books by the speaker or other material related to the lecture subject are available for sale.

You can also watch this event live on their [Media & Livestream page!](#)

St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
17205 County Rd 6
Plymouth, MN 55447
763-475-7100

Education Update

*Submitted by Heather Whitesell,
Education Coordinator*



The children have been following the Gospel lessons and doing thought-provoking activities related to Advent and the return of Jesus in the future. Youth have been meeting once a month in person. They designed their own rustic Advent calendar and really enjoyed a White Elephant exchange! We are still pondering ideas for this year's service project, so if you have ideas let me know.

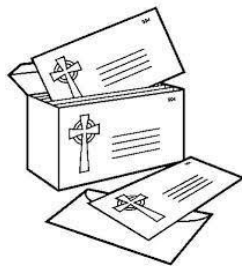
Adult Ed is in the works, but pandemic concerns have waylaid things for now. Looking forward to the new year with joy and hope.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

(The following thank you note was received in the mail from a person aided by the Discretionary Fund.)

I appreciate the help you give me. These moments I have trouble. I bless you and thank you very much for your assistance. This will help me pay my rent and make the payment for my telephone. The telephone is important for me to keep contact with my job.

I want to say thank you very much and God bless you.



Pledge Envelopes

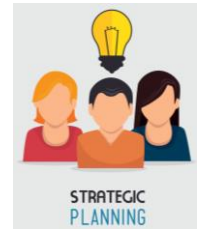
*By Marion Hunner
Parish Administrator*

Pledge envelopes were mailed to everyone who turned in pledge cards for 2022 EXCEPT those who chose to give electronically and those who prepaid their pledge.

If you did not get envelopes and you would like them, please contact Marion in the office: 952-926-1646 or office@stgeorgesonline.org

Update on the Strategic Plan and Outreach

*Submitted by Sarah Schulte,
Parish Warden*



You may remember the newsletter article back in September describing the work that Bruce Becker led for the Strategic Development Plan. A small task force, representing various groups in the congregation, shared ideas about how St. George's should look in the future. Bruce gathered and compiled the data to see where we would like to see energy focused. The top ideas fell into three main categories: outreach, families, and marketing. Outreach, in the form of community engagement, stood out as the most important path for us to pursue.

Another small group met recently in December to further discuss the Strategic Plan and the role that outreach will play at St. George's as we move ever forward. While we take time to pray and have personal and community discernment about steps forward, we will also be taking a serious look at who we are as a parish and how we fit into our community of St. Louis Park and beyond. We need someone to help assess and to walk with us as we evolve. Fr. Tom will take the next step in contacting Archdeacon Rena Turnham and Bishop Loya to ask for an additional deacon with outreach expertise, who would focus specifically on outreach at St. George's. The deacon ministry is focused on community, and we look forward to having an individual with new eyes and new energy to assess and walk with us on this journey.

**Behold, I am doing a
new thing; now it
springs forth, do you
not perceive it?**

Isaiah 43:19

Welcome Committee

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Sarah Schulte



Volunteers needed! Do you enjoy talking on the phone? Are you missing conversation with St. Georgites? Let us get you connected to others in the congregation!

The Welcome Committee is looking for volunteers to call parishioners who are unable to attend in-person services and/or access the livestream. These calls build community with those who are unable to gather at the church, keep us connected, and help boost spirits.

Please contact Sarah Schulte:
(schulteMSB@yahoo.com or 612-201-5731)
or Jane Sandsmark (mjsandsmark@gmail.com
or 952-221-4004) for more information
or to volunteer. Thank you!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



January 5	Tom Boe
6	Jillian Zaun
9	Carole Leonard
18	Patti Wales
	Charles Hample
19	Fran Bly
22	Diane McGowan
24	Bruce Wachutka
25	Tom Zaun
31	Dan Manion



MINISTERS OF THE EUCCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

	JANUARY 2	JANUARY 9	JANUARY 16	JANUARY 23	JANUARY 30
Readings	Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a Psalm 84:1-8 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23	Acts 8:14-17 Psalm 29 Luke 3:15-17,21-22	I Corinthians 12:1-11 Psalm 36:5-10 John 2:1-11	I Corinthians 12:12-31a Psalm 19 Luke 4:14-21	I Corinthians 3:12-42 Psalm 71:1-6 Luke 4:21-30
Lectors	Leslie O'Donnell	Tom Harmon	Carole Leonard	Devin Snyders	Kathie Brown
Ushers	Bill Stromberg Bruce Becker	Tom Zaun Jane Sandsmark	Bob Jones Bruce Wachutka	Tom Zaun Tom Harmon Gregg Jacobson	Sarah Schulte Lou Michelich
Altar Guild	Bill Stromberg Kitty Reese	Kathleen Boe Katy Campbell Rachel Santos	Nancy Becker Bruce Becker Kathie Brown	Jane Jacobson Gregg Jacobson	Bill Stromberg Kitty Reese
Coffee Servers	Coffee hour temporarily on hold				Ron Holbach





Check out the events in January
SOME EVENTS ARE ONLINE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	3	4	5 11 a.m.- GBD (Zoom)	6 6 p.m. AA	7	8
9 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	10 7 p.m Finance	11	12 11 a.m.- GBD (Zoom) 7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	13 6 p.m. AA	14	15
16 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	17 7 p.m. Vestry	18	19 11 a.m.- GBD (Zoom)	20 10:30 a.m. Welcoming Committee 6 p.m. AA	21	22
23 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	24 12 noon Women of St. George (Zoom)	25	26 11 a.m.- GBD (Zoom) 7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	27 6 p.m. AA	28	29
30 Bishop Loya visits 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist	31					

**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**

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

*(Fr. Tom's contact for emergencies when the office
is closed – 651-319-3570)*

Deacon: The Rev. Diane McGowan

smarl@aol.com

Parish Administrator, Marion Hunner

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;

Vanessa Vaughn, Bass

VESTRY:

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

Clerk of the Vestry:

Laura Harmon

Parish Treasurer:

Connie Kotula

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Sunday Services
are now in person
and available on St. George's
YouTube Channel**

**Sunday Worship at St. George's
9:30 a.m.**

**NOTE: If you would like to receive
a print copy of the church newsletter,
please contact Marion in the office.**