

# 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

office@stgeorgesonline.org

952-926-1646

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## SO WHY IS PENTECOST IMPORTANT?

*By The Rev. Tom Gehlsen*



You may or may not have ever asked the question, "Why is Pentecost important?" It's important because it infused the small community of Jesus-followers with the core mission that would define the Christian church ever after: to share the message of Jesus Christ with the entire world.

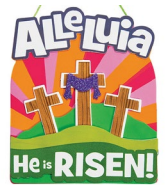
Consider that in the weeks following Christ's death and resurrection, many of his followers were undoubtedly still processing the incredible events they had witnessed and were probably wondering what God wanted them to do now that Jesus had carried out his mission. On Pentecost, God made it clear what Christ followers should do with the news of Jesus Christ: share it with others. And not just with the Jewish communities in which they lived; the multilinguistic nature of this miracle made it plain that the Gospel message was not confined to one community, nation, ethnicity, or language.

Pentecost is when the Christian church received, and was empowered to carry out its grand assignment of evangelism. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the "birthday of the Christian Church."

The mission given to Christians on Pentecost still stands, thousands of years later. We are to share the saving message of Jesus Christ with the world – and as we do so, we should rely on the presence of the Holy Spirit, who empowered the early church to share the Gospel, and continues to do so today.

## Education Update

*Submitted by Heather Whitesell*



Alleluia! So good to say that word. Kids were happy to remove the Alleluia banner from its hiding place and display it once again for all to see. The Easter season is a time for rejoicing and celebrating. We are ready for it. Here is an Easter prayer for your family to enjoy:

### Easter Prayer

The veil of darkness  
Transformed to the brightest light.  
The most dreadful end  
Became the most beautiful beginning.  
The depths of despair  
Fade to reveal hope everlasting.  
The curse of death  
Defeated by eternal life.  
Thank you Lord, for the wonder of Easter.



On **Palm Sunday**, Harry Kelly instructed Nancy Taylor and Mary Kuhfeld how to make a cross out of palms.



# Ukrainian Egg Decorating Fundraiser

By Sarah Schulte

As St. Georgites watched the horrors of war unfold against Ukraine and its people, we felt the need to do something to help. For years, Camille Schroeder has taught Ukrainian egg decorating to small groups who want to learn this art. This year, Camille offered to teach it to a group of about 30 in the Parish Hall as a fundraiser to help the people of Ukraine.

She provided the beeswax, candles, the kistkas, and the vibrant dyes. We learned how to scoop bits of wax into the tiny funnels of our kistkas, melt it with a candle, and draw on our eggs. The eggs were then dipped into a first dye. Wax was continually added, and eggs dyed, to create layers and beautiful designs. The process usually takes about three hours for each egg. We had children as well as adults create stunning eggs.

With a suggested donation of \$25 a person, St. George's raised \$2,095 that was sent in a check to Alight, an organization that helps to "build a meaningful life for and with the displaced." We are blessed with a community of generous members here at St. George's. We hope you enjoy seeing photos of the vibrant eggs, created with love and prayers and hope.



**Jane Carlson, Laura Harmon, Nancy Becker and Camille Schroeder**



♪ "They look pretty. Oh so pretty" ♪



**Jane Jacobson and her sister Patty with Camille Schroeder**







Paul & Rachel Santos, Charlie Hample,  
and Fran Bly



Should one put all of their eggs in one basket?



There were so many beautiful and creative designs.





## FROM THE OFFICE

*By Marion Hunner,  
Parish Administrator*



**Giving Statements:** Giving Statements for the first quarter of 2022 (Jan.-March) will be mailed during the first week of May.

**Ukraine donations:** We collected a total of \$2,095 for Ukraine, and a check in that amount was sent to Alight.

**Forward Day by Day** booklets for May, June, and July are in the Narthex.



## A THANK YOU!

*By Camille Schroeder*

Thanks to all who donated to the MN FoodShare project this year. A total of 379 pounds of food was donated to the St. Louis Park Emergency Program by our congregation.

The need continues and your donations are always appreciated. Let's continue to fill the red wagon each week.

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS UPDATE

*By Carole Leonard, Chair of Buildings & Grounds*

- Thank you to Tom Zaun for repairing the faucets over the sink in the kitchen. A long overdue task that will be much appreciated by anyone using the kitchen.
- Thanks to Bruce Wachutka and Carole Leonard for sprinkling Preen pre-emergent over all the gardens and rock beds on the church grounds. We were thankful for the rain and snow that followed.

## Buildings & Grounds Update (cont.)

- The pump for the boiler that heats the Education Building has now been replaced by Burn-O-Matic.
- Thank you to Bill Stromberg and Carole Leonard for sweeping all the church sidewalks prior to Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.
- Thank you to Tom Zaun and Carole Leonard for installing the two new "change of service time" panels on the electronic sign on Minnetonka Boulevard. The new panels read "Sunday 9:30 a.m." This saved St. George's the \$200 installation fee.
- Thanks to Bruce Wachutka for removing the several 50 lb. sandbags from the garden court and storing them in the shed for the summer.
- St. George's was informed by the City of St. Louis Park that they had a diseased ash tree on the edge of their parking lot. Cost of removal by the City was \$1,064. Other quotes received were \$1,600 and \$1,800.



The ash tree at the edge of the parking lot was very tall and had five trunks.

## **The Art of Gathering by Priya Parker**

Book review by Sarah Schulte

A few weeks ago, I registered for a course through the ECMN School of Formation. The School of Formation grew out of a need for formation for individuals called to both lay as well as ordained leadership in our faith communities. Anyone can take – and are encouraged to take – the courses and workshops that are offered. All are welcome! The course I signed up for was titled “The Art of Gathering” based on the book of the same title. About nine of us met over Zoom to discuss the book and dig into how it applies to our lives and vocations. Our discussion was honest and thoughtful – after taking this course, I’d definitely recommend classes through the School of Formation if it is something that peaks your interest.

Back to the book! The “art of gathering” sounds a little Martha Stewart-esque, but this is no home decorating and cooking manifesto. Priya Parker argues that we often gather because it’s expected, but with little thought to the *why* of meeting in groups. She stresses the importance of naming a specific purpose when gathering, no matter the occasion. Whether people are coming together for a casual dinner, a meeting for work, book club, or a vestry meeting, the meeting will be more meaningful if there are parameters in place. To bring out the real potential of any gathering, Parker organizes the book by chapters that explain the parameters and provides examples from her years of experience as a facilitator of high-powered gatherings around the world.

I found that some chapters really spoke to me while others turned me off. I liked her suggestion of priming guests prior to an event so they come with ideas ready or bring something they have completed earlier. It gets people thinking and generating ideas before they’ve even arrived. “Don’t Be a Chill Host” brought up the ideas of generous authority and the importance of connecting, equalizing, and protecting one’s guests. However, the chapter “Close Doors” was a challenge for me as it focused on why thoughtful exclusion can be generous and can actually increase diversity of thought. It’s intriguing but definitely something I’m still processing.

I’d recommend this book as we return to gathering in many aspects of our lives. It’s worth determining a sharply focused purpose as we craft gatherings to be as meaningful as possible – in our personal lives, at work, and at St George’s.

## **SPRING CLEANUP DAY SATURDAY, MAY 14 9 A.M. – NOON**



### **We can use your help!**

We hope you will plan to join us on Saturday, May 14, for St. George’s annual spring planting and cleanup day from 9 a.m. to noon. Projects for the day will include planting of the gardens (weather permitting), washing windows, wiping down the pews, general cleaning, etc.

If you plan to help with the planting, please bring your planting tools and garden gloves if you have them.

### **Please watch for a signup sheet in the Parish Hall.**



May 1	Bruce Becker
	Addia Troyer
3	Wendy Herbers
	The Rev. Dr. Mildred Cox
6	Ted Eschweiler
7	Brian Salami
	Joyce Gniot
	Calista Snyders
8	Ron Holbach
	Leslie O'Donnell
12	Dan Westlund
13	Christie Kraabel
15	John Hoffacker
16	Peter Riola
17	Raymond Huber
19	Iris Alexander
20	Priscilla Hagerman
24	Mitch Pearlstein
27	Cathy Asgian
29	Diane Anderson
30	Grace Kuku



## MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

	<b>Sunday May 1</b>	<b>Sunday May 8</b>	<b>Sunday May 15</b>	<b>Sunday May 22</b>	<b>Sunday May 29</b>
<b>Readings</b>	Acts 9:1-6(7-20) Psalm 30 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 John 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 John 14:23-29	Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 John 17:20-26
<b>Lectors</b>	Devin Snyders	Leslie O'Donnell	Mary Weekes	Tom Harmon	Mary Kuhfeld
<b>Chalice Bearers</b>	Laura Harmon Leslie O'Donnell	Cyprian Troyer Amanda Turgeant	Kathie Brown Ron Holbach	Kris Kelley Kathleen Boe	Bill Stromberg Laura Harmon
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Stromberg Gregg Jacobson	Tom Zaun Lou Michelich	Bob Jones Bruce Wachutka	Tom Harmon Tom Zaun	Sarah Schulte Jane Sandsmark
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kathleen Boe Katy Campbell Rachel Santos	Kitty Reese Bill Stromberg	Jane Jacobson Gregg Jacobson	Nancy Becker Bruce Becker Kathie Brown	Kathleen Boe Katy Campbell Rachel Santos
<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Ron Holbach	Bob Jones	John Carlson Jane Carlson	Carole Leonard Geri Alberg	Bob Jones

I am with you always,  
to the very end of the  
age.  
Matthew 28:20





## CHECK OUT THE EVENTS IN MAY. SOME EVENTS ARE ONLINE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  11 a.m.-1 p.m. Youth Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11 a.m. GBD(Zoom)	<b>5</b> 6 p.m. AA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  <b>Mothers Day</b>	<b>9</b> 11 a.m. Staff meeting  7 p.m. Finance	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11 a.m. GBD(Zoom)  7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	<b>12</b> 6 p.m. AA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9 a.m. – Noon Spring Cleanup Day
<b>15</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 7 p.m. Vestry (Zoom)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11 a.m. GBD(Zoom)	<b>19</b> 10:30 a.m. Welcoming Committee (Zoom)  6 p.m. AA	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 12 p.m. Women of St. George's (Parish Hall)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11 a.m. GBD(Zoom)  7 pm – Peer Support Group–closed (PH)	<b>26</b> 6 p.m. AA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

**GBD: 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:smarl@aol.com)

Parish Administrator, Marion Hunner

[office@stgeorgesonline.org](mailto:office@stgeorgesonline.org)

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

[johnh@stgeorgesonline.org](mailto:johnh@stgeorgesonline.org)

Children and Youth Coordinator, Heather  
Whitesell

[heatherw@stgeorgesonline.org](mailto:heatherw@stgeorgesonline.org)

### ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE:

Cristina Czaia, soprano

Alexis Winters, mezzo-soprano

Vanessa Vaughn, Bass

### VESTRY:

Bruce Wachutka, Rector's Warden; Sarah Schulte,  
Parish Warden; Bruce Becker, Jill Burns, Ellen  
Doering, Suzy Garland, Charles Hample, Gregg  
Jacobson, Rachel Santos, and Roxy Zaun.

### Clerk of the Vestry:

Laura Harmon

### Parish Treasurer:

Connie Kotula

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

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