

5224 Minnetonka Boulevard

▪ Saint Louis Park, MN 55416

▪ 952-926-1646

St. George's Episcopal Church

office@stgeorgesonline.org

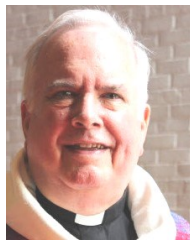
September 2024

This is a free publication for members and friends

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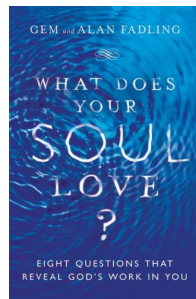
To Know Is to Learn

By Fr. Tom Gehlsen



We find summer leaving us, and fall is fast approaching, which means we are about to begin a new program year. Between the beginning of the program year and the new year, we will have the opportunity to take advantage of a few Adult Forum sessions.

Beginning Sunday, September 22, we are privileged to have The Reverend Jeckonia Okoth lead a book study. The book is entitled, "What Does Your Soul Love." It is available in the Parish Hall when you sign up for the sessions that will continue for 4 consecutive Sundays.



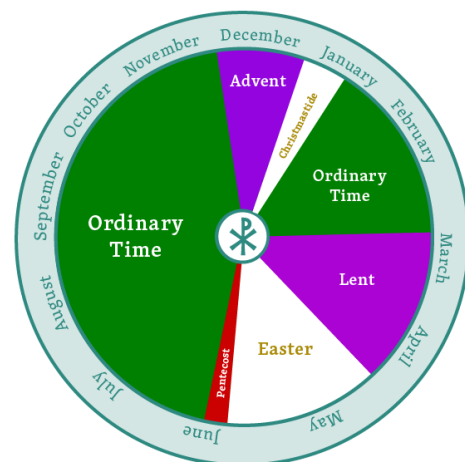
Continuing in November, we will host The Reverend Mary Ellen Garnier. Mary Ellen is originally from Minnesota, and ordained for the Diocese of Northern California. She and her husband Gary have retired here in the Twin Cities

after two successful careers in California. Mary Ellen and I met at a 3-year leadership training course in Connecticut. Not only is Mary Ellen a priest, she is also a highly trained nurse



who managed the Pastoral Care Program in an urban medical center as well as other responsibilities. Her 2-week presentation will focus on the health of the aged and the end of life.

To round out the forums, in December Fr. Tom will present a study of the season of Advent and the liturgical year.



Ushers

By Marion Hunner

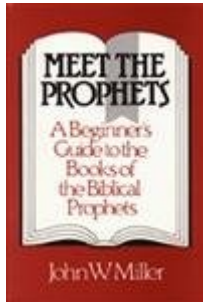
Beginning in September, we will have one usher scheduled each week. If you feel moved to help that person, they would be very grateful. If you feel called to usher on a regular basis, please contact the office to be added to the schedule.



Bible Study

By Charlie Hample

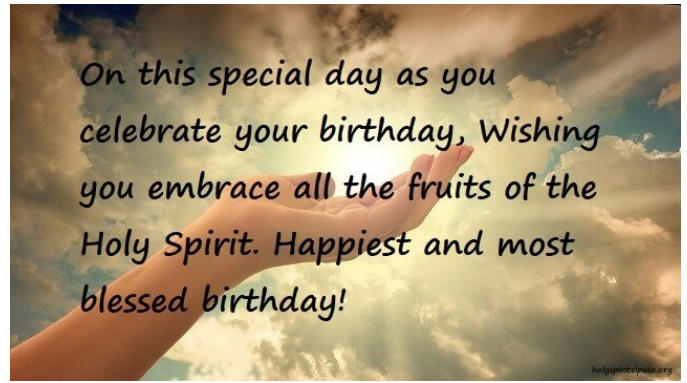
Wednesday morning Bible Study begins September 4th. We will be using the book *Meet the Prophets* to study 8 of the Old Testament prophets - their times, their messages, and their relevance to us today. The studies take place in the Christian Education Building in the conference room next to the office from 10:00-11:00 am each Wednesday. For questions, please contact Charlie Hample at 612-408-9058 or Charlie.hample@comcast.net



Blessing of Our Animal Companions: October 4

By John Hoffacker

We celebrate the love among our families and our animal companions with a brief prayer service at St. George's on Friday, October 4, at 6pm. Bring friends — furry or otherwise.



September Birthdays

11 - Camille Schroeder	23 - Devin Snyders
16 - Kathie Brown	27 - Jill Burns
17 - Brianna McCosh	29 - Kelly Snyders
17 - Sarah Rash	



Financial Updates

By Kathie Brown, Treasurer



The following financial information is through July. When August information is approved at the September Vestry meeting, we will post it in the October monthly newsletter.

Net Income = Income minus expenses

YTD = Year to date

Numbers in parentheses are negative

Pledges Received in July	\$ 9,391
Percent of the Monthly Budget	79.7%
Total Pledges Received YTD	\$ 80,161
Percent of the Annual Budget	56.7%

Net Income for July	\$ 520
Net Income YTD	\$ (16,088)
Budget Net Income YTD	\$ (20,566)
Actual Net Income compared to Budgeted Net Income YTD	\$ 4,478

Adult Forum

Beginning in September

Following the 10:00 am service

- ◆ Rector Q & A on September 15
- ◆ *What Does Your Soul Love?* Presented by The Rev. Jeckonia Okoth, September 22, 29 and October 6, 13.
- ◆ *Elderly Health Care and End of Life* presented by The Rev. Mary Ellen Garnier, November 3, 10
- ◆ *Advent and the Liturgical Year* presented by Fr. Tom Gehlsen, December 1, 8.



Summary of August 19 Vestry Meeting

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Fr. Gehlsen.

Kathie Brown presented the July, 2024 Financial Report, the report was discussed and Kathie answered questions. When the discussion was complete, a vote was taken to accept the report. Once the report was accepted, Kathie left the meeting.

Fr. Gehlsen introduced the meeting's primary agenda item as the dire straits in which we currently find the Vestry.

Both Wardens have resigned from their positions. Bruce Wachutka has also left St. George's. Connie Kotula is considering leaving as well.

Lou Michelich has resigned his position as Manager of St. George's Endowment Fund and Chair of the Personnel Committee in support of the Wardens.

Fr. Gehlsen is having difficulty finding people to take their places. Given this situation, he has asked the diocese to step in to help us resolve the issues plaguing us.

Karen Olson introduced herself and told us she has spoken with Fr. Tom and both wardens to get their perspectives of the issues and she was in attendance at the meeting to hear from the Vestry members. Each of the members present spoke and several did not see the situation as dire as the former wardens but did agree there are communication and trust issues present which could be alleviated with vestry training. Generally, we must find a way to move forward for the sake of St. George's. Vestry members will be approaching individuals and small groups of members for their input.

One topic of old business was raised by Iris Alexander. She has approached a couple of appraisers regarding our Evelyn Raymond sculptures with little success. There doesn't seem to be any commercial market for her work so we were unable to get any formal appraisals performed. After talking with a few people in the parish we have decided to present Fr. Tom and Deacon Diane with a sculpture each. The remaining 5 sculptures will be silent auctioned off to parish members. The sculptures will continue to be displayed in the parish hall for the next 3 weeks with bid sheets. If any of the sculptures are left after the auction, they will be donated to the St. Louis Park Historical Society. The Vestry members present voted and passed the proposal unanimously.

This summary was prepared by Iris Alexander. The full minutes of the meeting were taken by Marion Hunner and will be available after approval by the Vestry at the September meeting.



Interim Warden

On August 28, the vestry voted to appoint Jane Jacobson as our interim warden. Jane's term will be effective immediately and run until the Annual Meeting in 2025.

Parish Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Holy Eucharist	2 Labor Day	3	4	5 6:30 pm AA	6	7
8 10 am Holy Eucharist	9 7 pm Finance	10	11	12 6:30 pm AA	13	14
15 10 am Holy Eucharist Q & A with the Rector	16 7 pm Vestry	17	18	19 6-9 pm Dwyer Miller Visitation 6:30 pm AA	20 11 am Dwyer Miller Funeral	21
22 10 am Holy Eucharist Adult Forum <i>What Does Your Soul Love?</i>	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11:30am Women of St. George's	24	25	26 6:30 pm AA	27	28
29 10 am Holy Eucharist Adult Forum <i>What Does Your Soul Love?</i>	30					

Sunday Ministries



	Sunday September 1 15 Sunday after Pentecost	Sunday September 8 16 Sunday after Pentecost	Sunday September 15 17 Sunday after Pentecost	Sunday September 22 18 Sunday after Pentecost	Sunday September 29 19 Sunday after Pentecost
Lectionary Readings	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalms 15 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalms 146 James 2:1-10, [11-13], 14-17 Mark 7:24-37	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalms 116:1-8 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1 Psalms 54 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalms 19:7-14 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50
Lectors	Sarah Schulte Kathie Brown	Charlie Hample Fran Bly	Cyprian Troyer Mary Weekes	Camille Schroeder Devin Snyders	John Rash Carole Leonard
Chalice Bearers	Kathie Brown Kris Kelley	Jane Jacobson Rachel Santos	Laura Harmon Cyprian Troyer	Adele Cormier Leslie O'Donnell	Laura Harmon Kris Kelley
Acolytes	Jayden Odihiambo	None	Lilly and Elena Schulte	Jayden Odihiambo	Lilly and Elena Schulte
Ushers	Bob Jones	Tom Harmon	Tom Zaun	Jane Jacobson	Tom Zaun
Altar Guild	Laura Harmon Heather Whitesell	Kris Kelley Rachel Santos	Jane Jacobson	Jane Jacobson Heather Whitesell	Laura Harmon Gregg Jacobson
Coffee Servers	Bruce & Iris Alexander	Bob Jones	Patricia & Don Janke	Betty Bauer Carole Leonard	John & Jane Carlson

STEP

ST. LOUIS PARK EMERGENCY PROGRAM

By Camille Schroeder

STEP's Back to School Program provided school supplies to 610 children who live in St. Louis Park. Each student received the supplies that their teachers requested. In addition, seven people from St. George's volunteered to work the program. This included sorting supplies, filling student supply bags and assisting students in picking up their bags. It is a wonderful program and very needed. Thanks to all who donated supplies and/or money and to those who volunteered.



Need help? Call 988

Feeling overwhelmed? Stressed? Can't cope? Suicidal? Anxious? Pick up the phone, call 988, and you'll talk with a trained counselor. It's available 24 hours a day, every day, and it's for anyone experiencing problems with mental health.

When you connect to the 988 Lifeline, a trained crisis specialist will answer, listen to you, and provide support and share resources if needed. Crisis Specialists are trained to focus on de-escalation, safety planning, and coping skills. Call if you or someone you care about is hurting.

For more information,
Google 988 Lifeline Minnesota.

Open Sings

By John Hoffacker

We did it! Our church welcomed almost 700 guests in July in our second festival of Open Sings! We met the challenge of setting up our sanctuary, narthex, and parish hall each week. We welcomed our guests, fed them, and helped them prepare four musical masterpieces.

We raised awareness and funds for some outstanding charities:

July 10	140 guests	\$410 for Helping Paws
July 17	170 guests	\$892 for CARE
July 24	200 guests	\$773 for NAMI-MN
July 31	160 guests	\$1,032 for STEP

I am so grateful for the help that everyone provided and for your generous, enthusiastic spirit. I am so proud of our community. We rise to the challenge!





Episcopal Church
In Minnesota

What do we do now?
By Erin Weber-Johnson

As someone who guides faith communities and institutions in the work of discerning how to follow God's call, and how they can best steward their resources to serve their mission in a given context, this question has long held relevance. As we think about raising money and leading congregations—especially when we know that the “now” is riddled with anxiety—this question feels more relevant than ever.

What does it look like to give voice to this experience of uncertainty and lead in light of the changes and losses our collective grief points toward? My experience tells me that deep questions like this need answers that meet the real world challenges faith communities and their leaders face. So it is the question, “What do we do now?” that shows up and is articulated out of the real dirt, the down to earth, lived experiences of ministry.

[Click here](#) * to read the rest of this article, written by Erin Weber-Johnson for the ECMN Community Stories on July 24, 2024.

Erin Weber-Johnson is a lay theologian and partner at Vandersall Collective, a faith-based, women- and queer-led organization.

*the website is on the back page of the newsletter.

Corn Feed

By Camille Schroeder

Were you there? Did you have fun? And wasn't the corn delicious? Many thanks to Gwen Gysland and her family for providing the corn. They also provided heirloom tomatoes and a muskmelon. But in addition to that the participation of the congregation was tremendous. There were many volunteers who helped set up, many who helped clean up and many who donated food. Everyone who was asked to do something said "Yes." And so many asked what they could do to help. Such an outpouring of goodness from the people of our church. It was also great to see extended family members and former members and guests. Just wait until next year. Be sure to put the date on your calendar - it's Saturday, August 23, 2025.



About St. George's

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

www.stgeorgesonline.org

Office hours Tuesday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 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, Marion Hunner

office@stgeorgesonline.org

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

johnh@stgeorgesonline.org

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE:

Monica Murray, soprano

Alexis Winters, mezzo-soprano

Jacob Frost, tenor

Vanessa Vaughn, bass

INTERIM WARDEN:

Jane Jacobson

VESTRY:

Members at Large: Iris Alexander, Suzy Garland,
Charles Hample, Camille Schroeder, Devin
Snyders, and Roxy Zaun

PARISH TREASURER:

Kathie Brown

LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

What do we do now? Go to www.episcopalmn.org, click on Stories (at the top) then scroll down for this story.

**Sunday Worship at
St. George's 10:00 am**

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

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