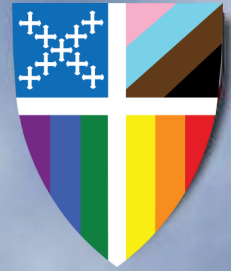


St. George's Episcopal Church

Uniting in Worship. Welcoming in Grace.



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St. George's Episcopal Church

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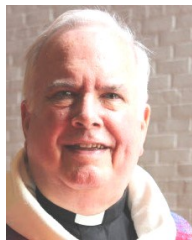
February 2025

This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 32, No. 2

Truly It Is Time For Lent

By Fr. Tom



Lent signifies a solemn 40-day period preceding Easter. Commencing on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Saturday, Lent is characterized by fasting, prayer, and repentance as believers prepare for the celebration of Easter Sunday. This season of reflection and self-discipline involves practices of fostering a deeper spiritual connection and commemorating the death of Christ.

Many Christians have heard of Lent, but do all know what it really means? Lent means the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Sundays are excluded in the count. This is a season of reflection, repentance and fasting.

It's important to check one's motives for observing Lent. Christ indicated that we shouldn't look gloomy like the hypocrites, by showing their faces as disfigured by fasting.

Lent is a time of inner reflection, self-sacrifice, denial and repentance. If something has a grip on you, it is more than likely it will become

unhealthy. This is the time to reflect on what love and sacrifice God has made for us. It is time to "get out of ourselves!"

This year Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, followed by Easter on April 20. Here is a prayer that might keep one focused on the season and spiritual self-development:

O Lord and Master of my life,
Take from me the spirit of being self-focused.
Instead give me humility, patience, and love.
Lord, grant me to be self-focused and
not to judge others.
For you are blessed, now and forever. Amen

PRAY
IS LOVE FOR GOD
FAST
IS LOVE FOR YOURSELF
GIVE
IS LOVE FOR OTHERS

PrayRay.com

From the Office

By Marion Hunner,
Parish Administrator



Links in the Newsletter - To follow links in the electronic copy of the newsletter, hold down the Ctrl key and click on the link. If you are reading a paper copy, look at the bottom of page 8 for instructions on how to find the links.

Office Hours - Marion will be on vacation the week of February 24-28.

Giving Statements - Giving statements for 2024 were emailed January 6. If you don't have email or you requested a paper copy, those were mailed on the same day. Please contact the office if you have any questions.



Welcome to Our Future

By Jane Jacobson

The Rev. Susan Moss, a retired priest with the Diocese of Minnesota, will be joining St. George's as a Ministry Companion. ECMN provides this important ministry to parishes undergoing change. Rev. Moss will work closely with our rector, wardens, and vestry by listening to our joys and concerns and gently guiding us into the future we choose for St. George's. She will be attending our worship service on Sunday, February 23, as well as staying for the Annual Meeting. We welcome this opportunity to explore new possibilities.



February Birthdays

01 - Tom Harmon	21 - Alice Otieno
08 - Betty Bauer	24 - Tom Hutton
10 - Bob Jones	29 - Jane Jacobson
16 - Don Janke	



Forward Day by Day

Booklets for February - April are
available on the table
in the Narthex.

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 23, 2025. The Annual Meeting will take place in the Parish Hall following the regular Sunday service.



Financial Updates

By Kathie Brown, Treasurer



The following financial information is through December and for calendar year 2024. When January and February 2025 information is approved at the March Vestry meeting, we will post it in the April monthly newsletter.

Net Income = Income minus expenses

YTD = Year to date

Numbers in parentheses are negative

Pledges Received in December	\$12,430
Percent of the Monthly Budget	105.4 %
Total Pledges Received YTD	\$140,559
Percent of the Annual Budget	99.4%

Net Income for December	(\$3,442.93)
Net Income YTD	(\$14,601.70)
Budget Net Income YTD	(\$44,835.00)
Actual Net Income compared to Budgeted Net Income YTD	\$ 30,233.30*

*Reflects \$25,000 taken from the General Investment Fund as income.



Lenten Services Planned

By Fr. Tom Gehlsen

During the upcoming Season of Lent 2025, St. George's will be partnering with two other churches in the area: Vista Lutheran Church, and Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church. Both churches are in St. Louis Park.

We will be holding services on Wednesday evenings of Lent at 6:30 PM. The services will rotate between each of the three churches. Discussions are being held by members of all three churches regarding a light meal prior to each of the services. Details to follow.

Here is the schedule of services for the Lenten Season:

5:30 pm Supper
6:00 pm Choir
6:30 pm Worship

March 5: Ash Wednesday at St. George's

March 12: Wednesday at St. George's

March 19: Wednesday at Spirit of Christ

March 26: Wednesday at Spirit of Christ

April 2: Wednesday at Spirit of Christ

April 9: Wednesday at Vista

April 17: Maundy Thursday at Vista

April 18: Good Friday at Vista.

Click on the links below to learn about each of these faith communities.

[Vista Lutheran Church](#)

[Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church](#)

Parish Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10 am Holy Eucharist Adult Forum: Derek Reise from STEP will present			10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 Vestry	7 pm Finance	10 am Staff Liturgy Mtg	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10 am Holy Eucharist			10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		
23	24	25	26	27	28	
10 am Holy Eucharist Annual Meeting	11:30 am Women of St. George's	Marion out of the office				
			10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		

Sunday Ministries



	Sunday February 2 4th Sunday after Epiphany	Sunday February 9 5th Sunday after Epiphany	Sunday February 16 6th Sunday after Epiphany	Sunday February 23 7th Sunday after Epiphany
Lectionary Readings	Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	Isaiah 6:1-13 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38
Lectors	Fran Bly Mark Schulte	Sarah Schulte John Rash	Leslie O'Donnell Tyler Williams	Carole Leonard Cyprian Troyer
Chalice Bearers	Laura Harmon Adele Cormier	Kris Kelley Kathie Brown	Jane Jacobson Cyprian Troyer	Rachel Santos Laura Harmon
Acolytes	Jayden Odihambo	None	Lilly Schulte Elena Schulte	None
Ushers	Jane Jacobson	Tom Harmon	Bob Jones	Bob Jones
Altar Guild	Laura Harmon Jane Jacobson	Kris Kelley Rachel Santos	Jane Jacobson Heather Whitesell	Jane and Gregg Jacobson
Coffee Servers	Don and Patricia Janke	Bob Jones	John & Jane Carlson	Betty Bauer Carole Leonard



Here are some resources to help you prepare your personal Lenten Journey

From United Thank Offering: [Lent 2025: 40 Days of Welcome and Gratitude.](#)

This is a call to give thanks for the ways we experience welcome/hospitality, in our homes, communities, and through the ways we care for ourselves and our stories. Our hope is that during the 40 days of Lent, we can all use gratitude to help us be more welcoming in the world around us.

When you click on the link, you will need to scroll down to find:

- The Ungrateful Refugee: A Lenten Book Group with UTO and EMM (could also be done in small groups locally).
- Daily text message: Sign up for a daily prompt to notice and give thanks for something in your life that you might take for granted.
- Printable calendar: Download a calendar with the same prompts as the daily text message that you can print out and hang on your fridge to mark the days until Easter.
- Printable prayers: Download prayers adapted from the UTO Liturgy for use during Lent and Easter.

From The Episcopal Church: [Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent](#)

The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, communities are invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life. Together, we will reflect anew on the loving actions of God as recounted in the Easter Vigil readings. Together, we will walk through the depths of salvation history into the fullness of redemption.

From Episcopal Relief and Development:

[2025 Lenten Meditations](#)

This Lent, “let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Join writer Jerusalem Jackson Greer this Lent as she encourages us to partake in “A Commonplace Lent.”

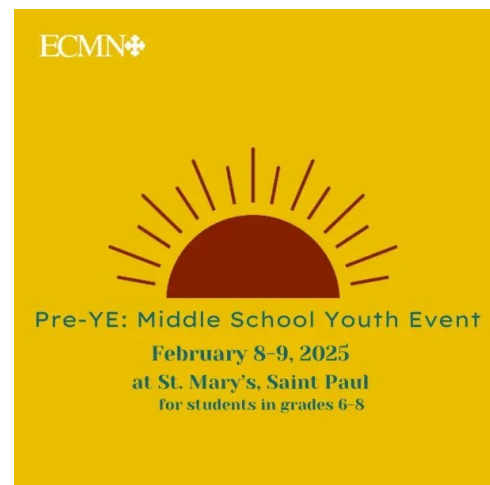
If you would like printed copies of any of these resources, reach out to Marion in the office and she would be happy to print them for you.



Pre-YE Middle School Retreat

Please pray for middle school students from around ECMN, including Jayden Odihiambo and Marion Hunner (with two youth from St. Christopher’s) who will gather on February 8th and 9th.

Pray for the youth and leaders attending the ECMN Pre-YE middle school retreat, that they would see where God is at work - in, around, and through them - and step into that work with God. Pray for deepened relationships. Pray for their sessions and discussions. Pray for encouragement. Pray for any obstacles they may need to overcome. May they hang onto the truth that God chose to be with them and for them in Jesus Christ, and that there is nothing that can shake God’s will to love them.



Safe Church Policies

By Marion Hunner

In our Baptismal Covenant, we promise to respect the dignity of every human being. One way that we live out that value in ECMN is through the implementation of our Safe Church Policies.

Following the way of Jesus means committing all we are and all we have to joining God's project to heal the world with love, and bearing witness to that love in all we do.

Our Safe Church policies are intended to help every faith community live into the commitment we are bound to in our baptism, to honor the dignity of every human being.

Ensuring that each person who is entrusted with leadership has regular and appropriate training in how to protect children and vulnerable adults, as well as how to appropriately attend to the power dynamics that mark different relationships in our church, is a critical part of our life together. This includes not only the people working with children and vulnerable adults, but also anyone making decisions that effect them.

Who needs Safe Church training, why, and how often? These are common questions. Anyone working with minors or vulnerable adults (teachers, group leaders, Eucharistic visitors) and making decisions that effect them (wardens, vestry), and anyone with a key to the building must take the training every 3 years.

In 2022 we got everyone in these roles at St. George's up to date. If you took the training then, and you still serve in any of the roles above, please watch for information about updating the training. You will receive an email from the office when it is time to renew your training. You may also contact the office at any time to learn when you will be due. All of the training is done independently online (new for many).



An excerpt from Bishop Loya's weekly address on 1/22/2025

The Little Way

The idea is that Jesus does not expect us to do great things, but rather every small thing with the greatest possible love.

Jesus does not expect perfection from us, but simply that we allow him to love us in our imperfections and failings, that we in turn might love others in theirs.

~ St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Bishop Mariann Budde bravely and beautifully modeled Therese's little way in her [sermon at the Washington National Cathedral](#). She told the truth with humility, and through the lens of love and compassion. Her posture and voice in that moment provide a great model for how followers of Jesus are called to stand in the face of every challenge we might face.

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.

tong@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

Luke Slivinski, tenor

Vanessa Vaughn, bass

INTERIM WARDENS:

Jane Jacobson and Lou Michelich

VESTRY:

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

PARISH TREASURER:

Kathie Brown

**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.**