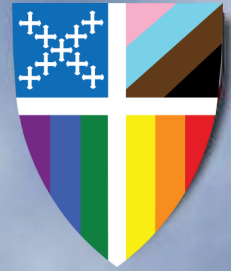


# St. George's Episcopal Church

## Uniting in Worship.

## Welcoming in Grace.



5224 Minnetonka Boulevard

Saint Louis Park, MN 55416

952-926-1646

St. George's Episcopal Church

office@stgeorgesonline.org

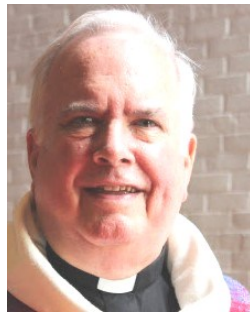
April 2025

This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 32, No. 4

### A Meditation in Finding the Risen One with Mary Magdalene

By Fr. Tom Geblsen



After witnessing the crucifixion, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to lament the one she loved and thought was dead. In her stubbornness in going to Christ, even after He was dead, Gregory the Great saw a model for us all. Even when our faith is hidden in darkness, and Christ seems to be dead for us, we continue to go toward Him, still wanting Him. But . . . the tomb is open and empty! Mary Magdalene doesn't understand. She thinks that someone has taken Christ's body. She tells the Apostles and then goes back to the tomb, to angels, and back to Christ Himself, who she doesn't recognize. Why doesn't she recognize the person she followed up to the very foot of the cross?

It is easy for us to conceive of the idea of Christ's Resurrection, since the Church has been proclaiming it for over 2,000 years. But for her it was the first time that something like this had ever happened, and it was completely unimaginable. The dead did not come back to life. It was true that Lazarus had come back to life through Jesus, the only one who could do that, but now Jesus Himself was dead.

And then Jesus calls her softly by name-----"Mary." No drums, no trumpets, no Son of man arriving on the clouds of heaven announced by Daniel. What a

discreet way to first appear after his victory of death! It is through his voice, the instrument of faith, that she recognizes him. When she turns around, she converts, she cries out her love for him: "Rabboni!"

The Risen Christ comes to meet us, to entrust us with a mission: to be his witnesses. The Resurrection is the center of history, but it isn't the last act, and as God is its author, he offers us the chance to proclaim his good news and what it means to everyone: that is it possible to be victorious over evil and death, the hope for life and eternal kindness.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!!



## 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.

**Check Reminder**-When you write a check to St. George's, please write on the memo line what the check is for. ALSO, please don't include more than one purpose on the same check (example: pledge + altar flowers). This will help our tellers tremendously.



## April Birthdays

02 - Gregg Jacobson	21 - Geri Alberg
06 - Ed Altmeyer	28 - Jermaine Otieno
07 - Jeckonia Okoth	29 - Jayden Odihiambo
15 - Mark Schulte	
18 - Nick Jones	

## Wednesdays Lenten Journey

By Kathie Brown



We continue our Wednesdays Lenten Journey with our Lutheran neighbors, Spirit of Christ and Vista Lutheran Churches. We will be at Spirit of Christ on April 2 and Vista on April 9. This collaboration in Lent has been a start, and we hope it will continue with various outreach and other events with these two churches.

The Wednesdays start with a soup supper at 5:30 pm where we can mingle with each other, followed by a short service at 6:30 pm. The service includes music by a combined choir-beautiful! Please join us.

While there is no supper during Holy Week, the combined choir will continue on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

### Evening Schedule

5:30 pm Supper  
6:00 pm Pop-Up Choir - all are welcome  
6:30 pm Worship

### Weekly Schedule

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](#)

4003 Wooddale Ave S, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

### [Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church](#)

5801 Minnetonka Blvd. St. Louis Park, MN 55416

## Minnetonka Boulevard

### Closing March 31

By Marion Hunner

Minnetonka Boulevard will be closed starting March 31 from Hwy 100 to Inglewood Street. This closure will last until “late fall,” according to Hennepin County. Please look at a map and plan your route to church using the side streets.

For local access, use Ottawa Avenue as the designated north/south access route to get to neighborhoods north or south of the construction zone.

[Visit the project website](#) for details and to sign up for email updates.



## Financial Updates

By Kathie Brown, Treasurer



The following financial information is through February. When March information is approved at the April Vestry meeting, we will post it in the May monthly newsletter.

Net Income = Income minus expenses

YTD = Year to date

Numbers in parentheses are negative

Pledges Received in February	\$9,928
Percent of the Monthly Budget	97.8 %
Total Pledges Received YTD	\$16,793
Percent of the Annual Budget	82.7%
Net Income for February	(\$11,327.27)
Net Income YTD	(\$15,524.08)
Budget Net Income YTD	(\$15,761.23)
Actual Net Income compared to Budgeted Net Income YTD	\$ 237.15

## Welcome to Our Future

By Jane Jacobson

The vestry invites you to join us in the Parish Hall following the Sunday services on **April 13th** and **May 4th**. The viability of remaining in this building must be discussed. We value your thoughts, concerns, and questions as we navigate this important time together. As you know, St. George's is at a critical juncture. We are facing declining membership and significant budget deficits. While no decision has been made or voted on regarding closing the church, we recognize that relying on our Endowment Fund to remain open is not a sustainable path forward.

Therefore, the vestry is committed to developing a plan of action, including specific dates, which will lead us into our future.

Time is limited, and the decisions we make in the coming months will shape the future of our ministry. While the Church Growth Committee continues its efforts to attract new members, the vestry remains focused on discerning a future that allows us to continue worshiping and serving in the Episcopal tradition.

We hope you will join us for these important conversations as we seek God's guidance together.

Dear child of God,  
When the world  
weighs heavy on your heart,  
When the shadow of despair  
clouds your vision,  
When the of tendrils of fear  
constricts your breath;  
Linger among the calm of the trees,  
Listen to the chatter of the birds,  
Look upon the dance of the waters,  
And then,  
Plant your bare feet  
in the depth of the dirt,  
Stand faithfully there  
on the edge of eternity,  
For therein  
gestates the seeds of  
Divine hope.



Bishop Dean K. Johnson

# Parish Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			<b>Lenten Journey</b> <b>AT SPIRIT OF CHRIST</b> 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm Pop-up Choir 6:30 pm Lent Service	6:30 pm AA		11:30 Diane Anderson Funeral
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10 am Holy Eucharist Educational Forum			<b>Lenten Journey</b> <b>AT VISTA</b> 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm Pop-up Choir 6:30 pm Lent Service	6:30 pm AA		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist Community Conversation	7 pm Finance			<b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>AT VISTA</b> 6:00 pm Pop-up Choir 6:30 pm Worship  6:30 pm AA	<b>Good Friday</b> <b>AT VISTA</b> 6:00 pm Pop-up choir 6:30 pm Worship	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Easter</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist				<b>NEWSLETTER</b> <b>DEADLINE</b> 6:30 pm AA		
27	28	29	30			
10 am Holy Eucharist Baptism 11:15 Vestry	11:30 am Women of St. George's					



# Sunday Ministries



	<b>Sunday April 6</b> Fifth Sunday in Lent	<b>Sunday April 13</b> Palm Sunday	<b>Sunday April 20</b> Easter Sunday	<b>Sunday April 27</b> Second Sunday of Easter
<b>Lectionary Readings</b>	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	<b>The Liturgy of the Palms</b> Luke 19:28-40 <b>The Liturgy of the Word</b> Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 23:1-49	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Luke 24:1-12	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31
<b>Lectors</b>	Camille Schroeder Bruce Wachutka	Carole Leonard Tyler Williams	John Rash	Claudia Hoffacker Charlie Hample
<b>Chalice Bearers</b>	Cyprian Troyer Rachel Santos	Kris Kelley Kathie Brown	Leslie O'Donnell Laura Harmon	Adele Cormier Jane Jacobson
<b>Acolytes</b>	None	None	Lilly Schulte Elena Schulte	Lilly Schulte Elena Schulte
<b>Ushers</b>	Gregg Jacobson	Tom Harmon	Tom Zaun	Bob Jones
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kris Kelley Rachel Santos	Jane Jacobson	Laura Harmon Heather Whitesell	Jane and Gregg Jacobson
<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Bruce and Iris Alexander	Bob Jones	John & Jane Carlson	Betty Bauer Carole Leonard

## April Educational Forum:

Sunday, April 6

By Fran Bly



The April Forum is planned to help us understand the community issues of homelessness and affordable housing. Our forum will be led by The Rev Emily Goldthwaite, Director of Congregational Organizing for Beacon Housing. Beacon Housing is a faith-based organization whose mission is to build a better tomorrow through affordable housing and educational, spiritual and social opportunities. The Rev Goldthwaite will share Beacon's vision, accomplishments and challenges, updates on their building plans and advocacy work. There will be time for questions and information about ways to get involved both individually and as a parish.

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## A Garden of Delights

By John Hoffacker

We'll host a FREE concert on **Sunday, May 4, at 4pm** here at St. George's. It's called *Lustgarten: A Garden of Delights* because the music is written to delight both the performers and their audience.

The Minnesänger, 40 singers from all around the metro, is Minnesota's German-language chorus. We love this music because it is direct, engaging, fun, beautiful, and sparkling.

Weather permitting, we'll start outside in the garden, then sing in the sanctuary. There will be food! Bring your friends!

## Easter Memorials and Thanksgivings

By Kathie Brown

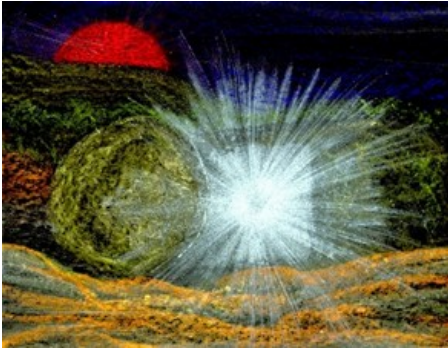
You are invited to make a monetary donation as a memorial or thanksgiving for Easter Sunday, the most special celebration of our Christianity. Donations fund special florals on Easter as well as altar flowers for other Sundays. See the donation form [here](#) as well as in the Sunday Bulletin. These are due to the office by Sunday, April 6. Thank you for your generosity.



By Camille Schroeder

St. George's donated a total of 220 pounds of food to the 2025 MN FoodShare project. This does not include our last Sunday of donations which is on April 6th. Our final count will be in the April 11th email blast. Thank you to all who have donated so generously. As we all know food security is a huge issue these days. Please continue to donate. Food is always needed. Many thanks from STEP and their clients.





Episcopal Church  
In Minnesota

## A Conversation on Hope

Thursday, April 3 | 7-8:15pm EST (6-7:15pm CT) |

You're invited to *A Conversation on Hope*, a powerful virtual discussion featuring Episcopal Bishops who have courageously embraced truth-telling and the role of mercy and courage in faith. Don't miss this important conversation!

[Register here.](#) Link will be provided upon registration.

### A Conversation on **HOPE**

Please join us as we  
"engage in speaking the truth so  
that we do not mislead others by  
our silence." (BCP)

You are invited to a virtual conversation with three Episcopal Bishops who  
bravely engage in truth-telling, emphasizing that mercy and courage are  
essential as they strive not to mislead anyone with silence.

**BISHOP  
MARIANN  
BUDDE**

**BISHOP  
CRAIG  
LOYA**

**BISHOP  
MICHAEL  
HUNN**

Facilitated by: Dr. Catherine Meeks, Chief Midwife and Executive Director of Turquoise and Lavender

Bishop Mariann Budde (Diocese of Washington DC), Bishop Craig Loya (Diocese of Minnesota), and Bishop Michael Hunn (Diocese of the Rio Grande) will engage in a conversation about hope.

**THURS  
DAY**

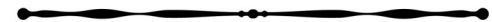
**APRIL  
3RD**

**20  
25**

**7:00PM-  
8:15PM EST**

PRESENTED BY  
**Turquoise  
& Lavender**

REGISTER TODAY FOR THIS FREE VIRTUAL CONVERSATION AT  
[WWW.TURQUOISEANDLAVENDER.COM](http://WWW.TURQUOISEANDLAVENDER.COM)



### Forward Day by Day

Booklets for May - July are  
available on the table  
in the Narthex.

## About St. George's

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

[www.stgeorgesonline.org](http://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](mailto:tong@stgeorgesonline.org)

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)

### 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, Ed O'Donnell,  
Camille Schroeder, Cyprian Troyer, and Mary  
Weekes

### 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**

#### **LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

There are many links in this newsletter. If you would like to follow them, please begin by going to our website, [www.stgeorgesonline.org](http://www.stgeorgesonline.org) and then clicking on News and Docs at the top. There you will find the online version of this publication. Press the Ctrl key as you click on the links, and that should take you where you need to be.

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