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St. George's Episcopal Church

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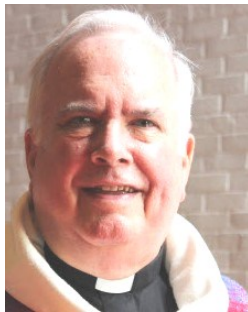
May 2025

This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 32, No. 5

Change, Change, Change

By Fr. Tom Geblsen



Spring is changing in weather, leaves, flowers, and grass just to name a few! We too are always in the process of change. Most of the time we don't even notice, feel or realize it. Major changes are those that will usually cause us concern and force us to ask questions, such as - why, where, how long, really, necessary? When we become aware of change with ourselves, we may need assistance from a spiritual perspective to make sure we arrive at the right disposition regarding the change! This is a challenge for all of us.

As I began to consider retirement, I was overwhelmed to think that after 50+ years of ministry, now what? At first, I felt as if I was in a vacuum. How can this be? What's happening? What do I do now? I was overwhelmed to think that now I get to get up in the morning, read the paper, drink coffee, and pet Elsa! Then what???

It was time to talk, talk, talk, and seek advice as to what this retirement thing is about. The first person I reached out to was a wise old spiritual guru who has shepherded me for years. He was a great help in framing retirement in a spiritual way - life has not ended,

life has changed! It took entering a spiritual viewpoint to realize that life hasn't ended but rather moved to a new and exciting dimension. That was and continues to be a scary fact, but one that I now know will be just fine as new challenges and options have presented themselves.

One of the ways I entered this dimension was to close my office door and focus on the wall opposite my desk. It is filled with a multitude of crosses collected from various places around the world as well as gifts from a number of people. What great spiritual gifts the crosses have been! And now they have assisted me in discerning my new paths.

I would like to share that experience with anyone in the parish who may find meaning in a cross from this large collection. If you are interested in viewing and possibly choosing a cross, feel free to visit my office. Enjoy the collection and decide if one of the crosses seems special to you. We will put your name on the back to reserve it for you.



From the Office

By Marion Hunner,
Parish Administrator



Giving Statements - First quarter (Jan. - March) giving statements were emailed on April 10. Paper statements were mailed to those who requested that on their pledge form. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

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.



Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 17, 9 AM – Noon

By Carole Leonard

Your help is requested.

We hope you will plan to join us on Saturday, May 17, for St. George's annual spring planting and clean-up day from 9 am. to noon. Projects for the day will include washing windows, wiping down the pews, general cleaning, cleaning out the garden shed, some small repairs, and planting of the gardens (weather permitting).

Please note: 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 Birthdays

01 - Bruce Becker	19 - Iris Alexander
05 - John Rash	23 - Catherine
07 - Joyce Gniot	McIntosh
08 - Leslie O'Donnell	24 - Mitch Pearlstein
15 - John Hoffacker	28 - Marion Hunner



Financial Updates

By Kathie Brown, Treasurer



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

Net Income = Income minus expenses

YTD = Year to date

Numbers in parentheses are negative

Pledges Received in March	\$6,603
Percent of the Monthly Budget	65 %
Total Pledges Received YTD	\$23,396
Percent of the Annual Budget	19.2%

Net Income for March	(\$ 2,318.18)
Net Income TD	(\$17,842.26)
Budget Net Income YTD	(\$24,623.43)
Actual Net Income compared to Budgeted Net Income YTD	\$ 6,781.17

This positive result compared to budget is due to income being approximately \$7,000 over budget because of the April Endowment Fund distribution hitting on March 31.

Updated Directory

By Marion Hunner

Our last directory was printed in the fall of 2023, and a lot has changed since then. People have moved or passed away, and new folks have joined us. Before printing a new directory, I would like to make sure that I have the most up-to-date information. Please help me to verify your information in **one of three ways**:

I will leave a printout of my current database in the parish hall. Please mark any changes or add information. If all your information is current, just initial next to your name to indicate that. Please note that if you asked for specific information to be left out of the directory in 2023, I have left it off this printout. If you add information to the printout, I will add it to the directory (except birthdays – those go to the card ministry team).

[Click here](#) to access a Google Form that will ask for all the information. This needs to be filled out for each family member.

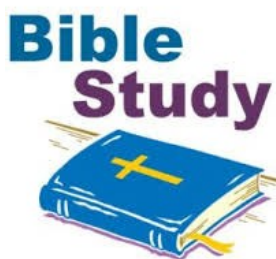
Call the office during office hours: Tuesday – Thursday 8:30 am – 2:30 pm.



Bible Study

By Charlie Hample

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study for May & June will be Paul's letter to the Romans. Sessions are at 10:00 am on Wednesdays in the Education Building's conference room. Each session will last about one hour. We are using a study guide called Romans For Normal People by J.R. Daniel Kirk. Please come and join us.



A Garden of Delights

By John Hoffacker

We'll host a FREE concert on **Sunday, May 4, at 4 pm** 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!



Lustgarten

A GARDEN OF DELIGHTS
German Songs of Hope, Love, and Joy

Minnesänger

FREE

**SUNDAY MAY 4
4 PM**

St George's Episcopal Church
5224 Minnetonka Blvd, St Louis Park

GermanChoir.org



Welcome to Our Future

By Jane Jacobson

Our next Community Discussion will be on Sunday, May 4 following the 10:00 service. Jay Nord has been invited to join us. Jay is a realtor who works closely with the diocese and developers, and he brings valuable insight into possibilities for church properties. His presence will help us begin exploring what's possible as we think beyond our current space.

Parish Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				6:30 pm AA		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 am Community Conversation			10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 am Holy Eucharist	7 pm Finance		10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		9 am - Noon Spring Clean-up
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 Vestry			10 am Bible Study NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	6:30 pm AA		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10 am Holy Eucharist	Memorial Day Women of St. George's will meet next week due to the holiday		10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		

Sunday Ministries



	Sunday May 4 Third Sunday of Easter	Sunday May 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter	Sunday May 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sunday May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter
Lectionary Readings	Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29
Lectors	Tyler Williams Sarah Schulte	Carole Leonard Bruce Wachutka	Mark Schulte Leslie O'Donnell	Cyprian Troyer Charlie Hample
Chalice Bearers	Kris Kelley Laura Harmon	Kathie Brown Leslie O'Donnell	Cyprian Troyer Rachel Santos	Adele Cormier Jane Jacobson
Acolytes	Lilly Schulte Elena Schulte	None	Lilly Schulte Elena Schulte	None
Ushers	Gregg Jacobson	Tom Harmon	Tom Zaun	Bob Jones
Altar Guild	Kris Kelley Rachel Santos	Jane Jacobson	Laura Harmon Heather Whitesell	Jane and Gregg Jacobson
Coffee Servers	Bruce and Iris Alexander	Bob Jones	John and Jane Carlson	Betty Bauer and Carole Leonard

Feed My Starving Children

By Fran Bly

Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit organization founded in 1987 by a man who returned from a mission trip and heard God say to him "... If you have seen my starving children, feed them..." The story of the organization's mission and growth is inspiring and exciting. I encourage you to check out their website. They are funded by donations from individuals, churches, foundations, and corporations.

Did you know that hunger causes nearly half of the deaths in children under age five worldwide? The primary mission of Feed My Starving Children is to provide nutritious meals to children in many countries. These meals consist of carefully planned dry ingredients that provide protein, carbohydrates and key nutrients. The meals are shipped to places of need and distributed by partner organizations.

On March 29, volunteers from St. George's, VISTA, and Spirit of Christ met many other folks at a warehouse in Chanhassen. After receiving instructions, putting on our hairnets and washing our hands, we were ready to work. The tasks are simple, and it was fun to stand in the assembly line and watch our progress. In about two hours we scooped, weighed, sealed and packaged 187 boxes equaling 40,392 meals. On April 1 these were shipped to Burundi.

St. George's community engagement opportunities with VISTA and Spirit of Christ will continue to grow. Watch for more information about ways to live our faith in action, serving our community.



Feed My Starving Children Volunteers



Playground Removal

By Marion Hunner

Last month an inspector from the City of St. Louis Park stopped by the office. He let us know that the playground equipment on our property needed to be repaired or removed for safety reasons. Thanks to a generous donor, we were able to pay someone to take it down and remove it.



Educational Forum

June Topic: Immigration

By Kathie Brown



Our June Educational Forum will be on the second Sunday, June 8, due to the availability of the speaker. Katherine Veldhuizen, Program Manager, Refugee and Immigrant Program, at The Advocates for Human Rights, will speak to us about facts and laws regarding immigration in the U.S. She will keep it as objective and non-political as possible. The presentation will last about an hour including some time for Q&A.

Founded in 1983, The Advocates for Human Rights started with a group of lawyers seeking to leverage Minnesota's spirit of social justice to promote and protect human rights worldwide. The Advocates for Human Rights is an independent, non-partisan, 501 (c)(3), non-governmental, international human rights organization. They implement international human rights standards to promote a civil society and reinforce the rule of law. [Click here](#) to learn more about this organization.

This will be the last adult education session until fall.



Alleluia. Christ is risen!



Summer Fun With Our Fellow ECMN Folks!

Episcopal Church in Minnesota at the Minnesota Saints Game - on Wednesday, June 18th at CHS Field - Tickets in the section reserved for ECMN are \$26 each. This is more than just a game; it's a day to connect, celebrate fellowship, and enjoy the spirit of community. Before the first pitch, indulge in a delightful pre-game meal at the Cub-a-Cabana, located on the left field concourse. From 5:30 PM to 7:07 PM, savor delicious bites and share in the joyous atmosphere with friends old and new. [Click here](#) for more details and to reserve tickets. OR, if you would like to sit with Marion and the folks from St. Christopher's, [click here](#).



Summer Youth Camp June 22 - 26, 2025

Summer camp is a unique and powerful opportunity for young people to meet God in God's creation and in beloved community with one another and caring adults. ECMN has a history of providing transformative formation opportunities for children and youth. Campers will discover and deepen their own faith by rooting in the story of Jesus, connecting with one another, and building community across the many lines of difference within our diocese, including geography. [Click here](#) for more details and to register.

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, 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 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.**