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St. George's Episcopal Church

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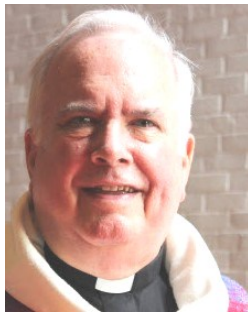
June 2025

This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 32, No. 6

Seeking the Will of God

By Fr. Tom Gehlsen



For some time now we, as a parish community, have been in the process of discernment!

Our goal in this process has been to seek the will of God, yet we have struggled to remove our attachment to our own will so that we can recognize the difference between the two. Throughout history, many people who did horrible things were convinced that they were doing God's will. That is why we must find an instrument to distinguish between God and us. Paul calls this gift the discernment of spirits. We have to learn when our own spirit is at work and when the Spirit of God is at work!

I can see no other way for discernment than a life in the Spirit, a life of unceasing prayer and contemplation, a life of deep communion with the Spirit of God. Such a life will slowly develop in us an inner sensitivity, enabling us to distinguish between the law of the flesh (ego) and the law of the Spirit (soul). We certainly will make errors, and we seldom have the purity of heart required to make the right decisions all the time. But when we continually strive to live in the Spirit, we are willing to confess our weakness and limitations in all humility, trusting in the one who is greater than our hearts.

Educational Forum

June Topic: Immigration

By Kathie Brown

Our June Educational Forum will be on the second Sunday, June 8. 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 education session until fall.



From the Office

By Marion Hunner,
Parish Administrator



Office Hours - Due to traffic issues, beginning June 1, Marion will be in the office 8 am - 2 pm.

Directory Update - Many thanks to the 40% of people who have updated their information with the office so that I can create a new directory. There are three ways to do this!

There is 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.

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.

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. There is also a dinner option at Cub a Cabana for \$22. [Click here](#) for more details and to reserve tickets with ECMN.



June Birthdays

04 - Cyprian Troyer 26 - Kris Kelley
14 - Robbie Latta 29 - Lilly Schulte
18 - Sharon Garland



Financial Updates

By Kathie Brown, Treasurer



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

Net Income = Income minus expenses
YTD = Year to date
Numbers in parentheses are negative

Pledges Received in April	\$9,901
Percent of the Monthly Budget	97 %
Total Pledges Received YTD	\$33,297
Percent of the Annual Budget	27.3%

Net Income for April	(\$ 5,714.12)
Net Income YTD	(\$23,556.38)
Budget Net Income YTD	(\$23,188.55)
Actual Net Income compared to Budgeted Net Income YTD	(\$ 367.83)

Thank You Spring Cleanup Day Workers

by Carole Leonard

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who worked diligently at the Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 17. We washed windows, wiped down pews, cleaned the kitchen, painted a second coat on the sign on the corner of Minnetonka Blvd. and Salem Avenue, swept out the garden shed, sprayed the grass growing in the garden areas with Roundup, cut out the dead branches in the plants in the playground area, cut tree branches that were growing inside bushes on Toledo and removed a dead evergreen bush on Minnetonka Blvd.

Thank you to: Kathie Brown, Charlie Hample, Gregg Jacobson, Kris Kelley, Douglas Krueger, Carole Leonard, Leslie O'Donnell, Nancy Taylor, Bruce Wachutka, and Heather Whitesell.



SLP Parktacular Parade

By Camille Schroeder

I love a parade. Do you? If so, please join your fellow St. Georgeites on Saturday, June 14th, to march in the St. Louis Park Parktacular parade. We did this once before, and it was great fun. The parade is from 10 to 12 in the morning. We will be giving out Tootsie Pops and greeting parade watchers with a smile. St. George's is on the move. Please let Kathie Brown, Fran Bly, Diane McGowan or Camille Schroeder know that you will be participating.

St. George shirts are recommended.



Parish Meeting and Vote Sunday, June 22 at 11:15 a.m.

By Jane Jacobson

The Vestry invites all members of St. George's to attend an important Parish Meeting on **Sunday, June 22nd at 11:15 a.m.**, following the morning service.

This meeting is part of our preparation for an **all-parish vote this fall** to determine our path forward. As part of this process, the Vestry has reviewed St. George's bylaws concerning who is eligible to vote.

To provide clarity and ensure fairness, the Vestry is proposing an amendment to the bylaws to better define what constitutes a **voting member** of the congregation. **The congregation must vote on any changes to the bylaws**; Specifically, the proposed changes would amend:

ARTICLE I - Members of the Parish Congregation

Section 1.01 — Members

All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ~~and whose baptism has been duly recorded in the Parish Congregation Register~~ are members of the Parish Congregation.

Section 1.04 — Good Standing

All Adult Communicants who for the previous year have been faithful in worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, ~~pledging~~, and giving to this Parish Congregation for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are Adult Communicants in Good Standing.

Your participation is vital as we continue to discern the future of St. George's together. The proposed bylaw clarification will help us ensure a thoughtful, transparent, and inclusive voting process.

Please make plans to attend.

Parish Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 am Holy Eucharist	11:30 am Women of St. George's		10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 am Educational Forum	7 pm Finance		10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		10am SLP Parktacular Parade
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10 am Holy Eucharist			10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 am Vestry & Parish Meeting	Newsletter Deadline		10 am Bible Study	6:30 pm AA		
29	30					
10 am Holy Eucharist	11:30 am Women of St. George's					

Sunday Ministries

	Sunday June 1 Ascension (5/29)	Sunday June 8 Day of Pentecost	Sunday June 15 First Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday	Sunday June 22 Second Sunday after Pentecost	Sunday June 29 Third Sunday after Pentecost
Lectionary Readings	Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53	Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:25-35, 37 Acts 2:1-13 John 14:8-17, 25-27	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22 -31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15	1 Kings 19:1-15a Psalm 43 Galatians 3:23- 29 Luke 8:26-39	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62
Lectors	Charlie Hample Claudia Hoffacker	Carole Leonard Tom Harmon	John Rash Camille Schroeder	Mary Weekes Cyprian Troyer	Tyler Williams Fran Bly
Chalice Bearers	Kris Kelley Kathie Brown	Adele Cormier Leslie O'Donnell	Rachel Santos Laura Harmon	Jane Jacobson Cyprian Troyer	Kathie Brown Laura Harmon
Ushers	Gregg Jacobson	Tom Harmon	Tom Zaun	Bob Jones	Tom Zaun
Altar Guild	Kris Kelley Rachel Santos	Jane Jacobson	Kris Kelley Rachel Santos	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	Bob Jones

St. George's is Growing Wherever We Are!

By Leslie and Ed O'Donnell

The vestry has approved working with ReachRight to help us grow even if we're not in our current building! They'll redesign our website and boost our online presence so more people can find us.

We believe that when people meet our warm, faithful community, they'll want to be part of our journey — even as we discern what comes next.

You can help right now:

- Share recent photos for the new website
- Volunteer to greet or follow up with newcomers
- Join the Church Growth Committee
- And most importantly — pray daily for our growth and mission

St. George's is more than a building — it's all of us, following Christ and welcoming others into His love.

Contact us if you can help:

Ed O'Donnell

edodo1@yahoo.com

(952) 454-8858

Leslie O'Donnell

lesodo@ymail.com

(612) 803-6293

Keep believing that all things are possible
with God's Help!

Suggested Prayer for the Growth of the Church

We come before You with hearts full of hope and faith, seeking Your divine guidance for the growth of our church. We ask for Your wisdom to lead us in ways that honor and glorify Your name. Lord, bless our congregation with unity and love, so that we may be a beacon of Your light in our community. Help us to reach out to those who are lost and in need of Your grace, bringing them into the fold of Your everlasting love. Grant us the courage to step out in faith, to embrace new opportunities, and to trust in Your plan for our church. May our actions and words reflect Your love and compassion, drawing others closer to You. We pray for the strength to overcome any obstacles that may come our way, knowing that with You, all things are possible. Fill our hearts with joy and our spirits with perseverance as we work together to grow Your kingdom. AMEN



Welcome to Our Future

By Jane Jacobson

Jay Nord, who helps churches through transitions like ours, spent time with us recently. He has walked alongside many congregations facing hard decisions, and he reminded us: the church isn't the building, it's the people.

Jay is here to take on the real estate worries so we can focus on our community and our faith. He's seen churches find new energy and purpose in new spaces - and believes the same is possible for us.

Where we are now:

- Our vestry has agreed: staying in our current building isn't sustainable.
- We're beginning to explore what's next - possibly merging, likely with a vibrant parish like St. David's. The vestry will compile a list of potential parishes who share our mission and reach out to them by May 25th.
- The process involves voting as a parish, then working with Diocesan trustees and Jay to determine our next steps.
- Any relocation or merger would aim to preserve and grow our mission, not just find a new space.
- We'll take time to visit other churches, talk about our values, and vote as a parish this fall. Visits will begin June 1st.
- The goal: to move forward with intention and care.

As Jay said, "We don't know where we're going, but we can't stay here." We go forward together, with faith, hope, and the love that has always defined our community.

Open Sings!

By John Hoffacker

A great tradition returns to St. George's this summer! Wednesdays in July, **beginning July 9**, musicians vocal and instrumental gather to rehearse for an hour, break for treats, and then play straight through a different choral/orchestral masterpiece each week. We're talking over a hundred excited, passionate, talented musicians in our sanctuary and fellowship hall every week!

Musicians from all around the area take part. Most belong to musical organizations that are on summer break. This will be my 17th year hosting Open Sings. Many people return year after year, thrilled to see friends from all over who share their passion.

Each night we hear from a different charity, and all the money we collect goes to that charity. Last year we raised over \$2,000 for groups like STEP.

What charities do you suggest we support? Email me - johnhoffacker@gmail.com

We need your help! I'm counting on St. George's famous hospitality to make these Open Sings successful. To volunteer, just email me. Sign up for as many slots as you like! I'll happily try to answer any questions you have.

- **5pm** Help set up chairs and music stands in the sanctuary for the orchestra (3 volunteers)
- **6pm** Welcome musicians and distribute music (2)
- **7pm** Bring treats (store-bought or homemade) and set up the fellowship hall (10)
- **8pm** Serve treats for about 15 minutes, then cleanup (6)
- **9:30pm** Collect music and donations (3)

July 9 Handel *Messiah*

July 16 Mendelssohn *Elijah*

July 23 Mozart *Requiem*

July 30 Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*

More info at our website, OpenSings.org

About St. George's

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

www.stgeorgesonline.org

Office hours Tuesday-Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PARISH STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Thomas J. Gehlsen, Ph.D.

tong@stgeorgesonline.org

Deacon: The Rev. Diane McGowan

Revdianedarby@gmail.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.**