



# THE VOICE

## View from The Pulpit



Every November, the Diocese of Chicago gathers for the annual Diocesan Convention. Priests, deacons and lay delegates from every congregation in the diocese are convened by the bishop to discuss issues confronting the church, to vote on legislation, and to elect representatives to the various deliberative bodies which work with the bishop in governing the diocese. This year's Convention will take place on November 17th and 18th. In addition to myself and Larry (as your parish clergy), St. Elisabeth's will be represented by Leslie Alter, Robin Lake and Anne Tuohy as your delegates assisted by Libby Hinds and Susan Chadd who are serving as alternates.

The annual Diocesan Convention reminds us that we aren't just a solo congregation going it by our lonesome, a complete community unto ourselves here in Glencoe. St. Elisabeth's, and therefore each of us, also belong to a much larger church family, a community of faith that spans Illinois, the nation and indeed the whole world. We are one of 123 congregations spread throughout the state of Illinois which together make up the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago - served and led by our bishop, the Right Reverend Paula Clark. Beyond our diocese, we belong to the Episcopal Church - governed by its deputies and bishops and the presiding bishop the Most Reverend Michael Curry. The Episcopal Church has dioceses in every state in the United States as well as in Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, Tawan, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and even a Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe (based in Paris). Beyond that fellowship, the Episcopal Church is a member church in the worldwide Anglican Communion - a family of churches from the United Kingdom to Canada, Africa to India, Japan to Australia and more - who all trace their spiritual lineage to the Church of England and who are in communion and fellowship with the Archbishop of Canterbury who is the "head" of the Anglican Communion. The Anglican Communion is the third largest Christian Communion in the world after the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Jesus calls each of us into community. Widening our circles of concern. And so this month I encourage you to pray for the Anglican Communion and for the Episcopal Church and for the Diocese of Chicago as we gather at Convention. I invite you to consider how you might connect with that larger fellowship of faith.



Fall Clean-Up Day  
9:00 am on Saturday, Nov 4



Don't Forget  
Clocks go back an hour Sunday, Nov 5

For starters, I'd encourage you to sign up for the diocesan email newsletter at [episcopalchicago.org/newsletter](http://episcopalchicago.org/newsletter).

You can also visit the website of (and sign up for a newsletter from) the Episcopal News Service to keep up to date on news from the wider Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. Their web address is [episcopalnewsservice.org](http://episcopalnewsservice.org).

Finally, when a natural disaster hits or when there's a political or social issue that you'd like to lend your voice to, I encourage you to check out Episcopal Relief and Development and the Episcopal Public Policy Network at [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org) and <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/action-alerts>, respectively.

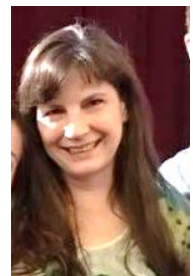
Let us pray for the whole Church throughout the world,

*O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

--Faithfully,  
The Rev. Adam Spencer, Rector

## The Warden's Corner

In this month of our stewardship campaign and preparing for holiday gatherings, normally we would highlight the importance of coming together as a community to celebrate our work together—the many ways we *make a difference* through outreach, *nourish* our souls through worship, *enjoy* friendships and support with each other, and *uphold* our baptismal vows in our daily lives. These beautiful efforts are meaningful, they are important, and they represent a bit of what makes St E's so special and valuable to me.



In the midst of the continuing chaos and violence in the world, it can seem trivial to focus on the things we would “normally” focus on—it doesn't feel like a “normal” day. The events in the world and even in our own homes can leave us feeling heartbroken and confused, wondering what to do. Fortunately, recommitting to our work together; the baptismal vows, outreach, friendship and support, spiritual formation and worship, is exactly what's needed during the ‘not normal’ days. When it feels like there are no clear, obvious answers or solutions...we can remember Adam's words from his recent Pastoral Letter, “God has one consistent response to evil, to suffering, to violence and death in this world: **Us.**”

Starting with us, we can lean on the community here at St E's for support and guidance during times of struggle. We can commit to the stewardship campaign and give generously to the work of the church. We can come together in worship, fellowship and volunteering to support and enjoy each other. Internally, we can be gentle with ourselves, remembering that we are not alone in our mix of thoughts, feelings and wishes for clear solutions. We can feel gratitude for our interest in helping, for the invitation to join in outreach efforts, for the many ways we provide care, and for kindness in our daily lives. In addition, the following meditation may be helpful for you to read and remember internally.

Today (and all days), we start with acknowledgment that we are never alone, God is present, and with God's love and strength guiding you, you are a gift to this world...you may have arrived in this moment, right now, tired...or worried about taking in more suffering, worried

about taking on more efforts to alleviate all that suffering...you may have arrived in this moment hopeful about opportunities to help...you may feel you are not doing enough, or feel dismayed that what you long for (perhaps an end to violence, world peace, eradication of poverty, loving relationships, understanding and compassion with family members, true acceptance for all the circumstances in your life) seems impossible. Whatever you are experiencing in terms of hopes, concerns, feelings and energy...is understood and accepted. You have accomplished everything needed to arrive in this moment, here, right now. You are complete, nothing is required except to be here and aware. You are good, exactly as you are. You are loved and needed, just as you are, with all of your concerns, hopes, energy, frustrations and joys.

Today (and all days) we start with the knowledge that you are living your mission and doing the best you can. Everything you do, as you live your day, gives you opportunities to share your adventurous spirit, your creativity, your kindness, to care for yourself, and radiate God's love. You are already doing this to the best of your ability. Your habits, energy levels, abilities, and interests will change over time, but you are enough and you are appreciated right now for being you. You are a light in this world!

Today (and all days) you can create a safe space of compassion and peace internally and, when possible, between you and others. A space for exploring, for practicing and using all of the wisdom you have learned and witnessed, all the lessons that sustain you and help you shine your light. You can trust that God is with you and you are enough...you can feel gratitude for opportunities to give and receive care...you can express acceptance and kindness for yourself and others...you are a light in this world, you are needed here, you are enough today and all days!

The antidote to evil, suffering, violence and death in this world is **Us**, it's our willingness to say "I will, with God's help." As we prepare for holidays, pledge our financial support for our work together, and do our best on days that are "normal" and "not normal," God is with us. We have ourselves and each other, we have our Baptismal vows and our mission statements, we can commit to living in ways that honor our heroes, our common humanity and our hope for the generations to come.

--Robin Lake, *Warden*

## From Our Seminarian



At the end of this month, from November 28 through December 9, I will be taking a trip to Dubai to represent the Episcopal Church at the United Nations' COP28, a summit of nations and non-governmental organizations convening to work on solutions to climate change and its related issues. As when I served in a similar capacity last year, my role will be focused heavily on financial matters: nations like the United States historically have generated the most carbon emissions as we industrialized and developed our economies, and less developed nations have tended to be more impacted by the adverse effects of our behavior than we have been. To that end, there is a global effort underway to encourage wealthier nations to help pay for humanitarian work in those countries most affected by climate-related natural disasters. As I travel, please pray for me, for all those serving, and for all those in harm's way due to climate catastrophes. I look forward to sharing more about my work with you upon my return.

Seán Hansen, *Seminarian*

## Celebrating and Nurturing Political Diversity at St. Elisabeth's

I was a professor of political science for thirty-two years at Purdue University. I understood that my students' views spanned the political spectrum and I wanted all of them to feel that they fully belonged in my class, had my respect, and could express their views freely. My ideal, doubtless not fully realized, was that students be unable to guess my political affiliation despite hearing me talk about politics for an entire semester.

We at St. Elisabeth's recite the Apostle's Creed, but we do not share a partisan political creed. Although our national politics have become polarized, we do not want political antipathy and distance within our own congregation. With so many opportunities to argue about politics outside our red doors, we want to be sure that our church community feels safe and inclusive for all, Democrats and Republicans alike. When one political persuasion is dominant in a group, those who adhere to it may unintentionally silence those in the minority and make them feel that they don't quite fit in. I don't think any of us wants such an atmosphere for our congregation.

Jesus calls us to love and care for our fellow human beings. We at St. Elisabeth's spend a lot of time talking about how we can work in the world to care for others, and to ensure fair treatment for all. As a congregation we affirm equality for all genders, sexual orientations, ethnicities, and racial identities and we try to manage our church home so as to reduce environmental harm. Of course, there are government policies that address all these issues, but we need to take care when discussing them at coffee hour or other church functions. When we cross the line from talking about issues to praising or criticizing specific political parties and leaders, we risk making some of us feel like outsiders.

I am no paragon at keeping church and state separate at coffee hour. Having taught politics for so long I am probably too quick to mouth off about my political opinions. Next time I sound too partisan, I hope one of you will give me a poke or say something. I know we all want to make our parish a truly welcoming and inclusive community of faith, and I look forward to hearing any comments any of you might have about the thoughts I've expressed here.

--Mark Tilton

## Annual Stewardship Appeal

Please Remember to Send in Your Pledge Card

You should all have received a copy of the Annual Appeal and a pledge card in the mail. Please send in your pledge card so that we receive it by Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. We will bless the pledges in church on Sunday, November 12.

You can submit your pledge anytime by:

- mailing it to the church
- putting it in the offering plate any Sunday
- dropping it by the office
- handing it to Adam or me
- in a pinch (yes, we lose the cards sometimes), even just emailing me: [mark@tiltonkohl.com](mailto:mark@tiltonkohl.com)



I hope you will join me in pledging as generously as you can to support St. Elisabeth's in 2024.

--Mark Tilton, *Stewardship Chair*

## Save the Date

- Pledge In Gathering **Sunday, November 12.**
- Advent Lessons & Carols **Sunday, December 10** at the 10:00 AM service.

## Sunday Forum



**The Three Bs: Believing, Behaving and Belonging**  
Church historian, Dr. Diana Butler Bass, has uncovered what she calls the great reversal of the three Bs: Believing, behaving, belonging to Belonging, Behaving, Believing. “The Great Reversal is the Great Returning of Christianity back toward what Jesus preached: a beloved and loving community, a way of life practiced in the world, a profound trust in God that eagerly anticipates

God’s reign of mercy and justice.” Please join Larry on Sunday, November 12 at for a forum coffee hour as we explore what that might mean for us as people of the Way in this parish and community.

**An Introduction to Saint Paul:** We begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent on December 3. During this upcoming liturgical year, Adam has decided he will be preaching (usually) on the second reading rather than the Gospel - a sort of yearlong Bible study of the New Testament. Since many of those lessons will come from the Letters of Saint Paul, Adam will be offering a Sunday forum on Sunday, November 26 at coffee hour to provide an Introduction to Saint Paul. Grab a cup of coffee and head over to the Guild Room as we learn a bit about the person who is quite possibly the second most important figure in Christian history after Jesus himself!

## Advent Wreath Making

Come One, Come All to join in a wonderful St. Elisabeth’s holiday tradition of making Advent wreaths. This year we’ll be gathering **after the 10:00 am service on December 3.** Children and adults can work together to create beautiful wreaths to be used in your homes during the season of Advent and on into Christmas. There will also be the opportunity to help create Advent wreaths for those who cannot be with us. We’ll supply all materials for the wreaths – candles, an array of evergreen cuttings, clear plastic bowls with flower foam that will keep greens wet throughout the season, and a brief guide to observing Advent. For anyone that is not able to attend but interested in making a wreath, please let us know and we can set aside kits for you to make at home.



We will request that you donate \$20 for each wreath. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the hall, or email Pam in the office to sign up.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Polly & Jim Baur.

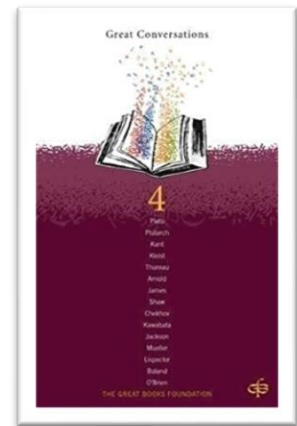
--Polly & Jim Baur



## St. E's Book Group

Why Are Otherwise Decent People Willing to Harm Others?

St. E's Book Group will meet on Tuesday Nov. 14 at noon in the parish living room to consider Shirley Jackson's short story "The Lottery." A disturbing tale as relevant today as when it was written in 1948, the story raises questions about the moral behavior of both a community and an individual. "The Lottery" is a selection in the Great Books Foundations' anthology Great Conversations 4, which chooses works with thought-provoking themes. The Book Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. Drop ins are always welcome. Contact Joyce Newcomb at [JoyceRNewcomb@gmail.com](mailto:JoyceRNewcomb@gmail.com) with questions.



--Joyce Newcomb

## Soup Kitchen



First United Methodist Church of Evanston has confirmed our reservation, to prepare and serve a hot meal to hungry diners in need. The date is **Thursday, November 9**. Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for our email blast soliciting your assistance. We are back to a full-service meal (and sack lunches to accompany) after a much-abbreviated procedure during the pandemic.

--John Tuohy & Susan Newcomb

## Christianity 101: Exploring Faith for Grownups

**Saturday, November 11:** 4:30 to 6:00 PM at St. Elisabeth's (556 Vernon Avenue, Glencoe) *Topic: The Bible:* The Jewish and Christian scriptures are a primary place Christians go looking to encounter God or to learn more about God. And even though it comes in one "book," there is a lot of different kinds of writing in there. This session will provide an overview to this library of faith and suggest some ways to use it.



**Saturday, December 2:** 4:30 to 6:00 PM at Trinity (425 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park) *Topic: Eucharist:* The most common way many Christians pray on Sunday, including Episcopalians, is called Eucharist, the meal that remembers Jesus' hospitality and his death, and transforms those who celebrate it into his presence in the world. This session will explore what we do in this celebration--and how it transforms us.

# ReVive Christmas Baskets



We are once again engaging with ReVive to sponsor the annual Christmas basket program. The Sign-Up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway at church. The envelopes with the details are in the Guild Room. There are families ranging in number of members from 1 to 4.

The **pickup** date is Friday, **December 8, 2023**

The **boxes** of wrapped gifts **must be in the sanctuary by 9:00 AM on Friday, December 8.**

Thanks to everyone for making this a success in 2023.

Rene Surgi, Ph.D.

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## Christmas Flowers and Music

I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Flowers

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Music



*Please Print Legibly*

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

No particular Dedication \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:** Please return this form with your donations check to the church office no later than **Friday, December 15** to ensure that your tribute is listed in the Christmas bulletin. Put "Christmas Flowers and Music" in the memo line of your check. Thank you.

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# Saint Elisabeth's Calendar

## *Regular Weekly Schedule*

### **Sundays**

8:00 AM – Spoken Eucharist Rite I

9:00 AM – Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM – Choral Eucharist Rite II

### **Mondays**

8:00 PM – AA Group

### **Wednesdays**

7:15 PM – Boy Scout Troop #28

### **Thursdays**

7:30 AM – Spoken Eucharist Rite II

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

### **Fridays**

11:00 AM – Bible Study

### **Saturdays**

5:00 PM – AA Group

## *Special Events*

### **Sunday, November 4**

9:00 AM Fall Clean-Up Day

### **Thursday, November 9**

Soup Kitchen

### **Saturday, November 11**

4:30 PM Confirmation & Christianity 101 St. E's

### **Sunday, November 12**

11:30 AM Forum – The Three B's

5:30 PM Taizé Service at Christ Church, Winnetka

### **Tuesday, November 14**

12:00 Noon St. E's Book Group

7:15 PM Vestry Meeting

### **Friday & Saturday, 17-18**

Diocesan Convention in Lombard

### **Wed to Fri, November 22-24**

Office closed for Thanksgiving

### **Sunday, November 26**

11:30 AM Forum – Intro to Paul

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#### St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

556 Vernon Avenue, Glencoe, Illinois 60022

847-835-0458

[www.steglencoe.org](http://www.steglencoe.org)

Office Hours: T – by appointment, W-F 8am -12 pm