

# St. John's E-news

5/7/2020

St. John's Episcopal Church building remains closed and all activities and services are suspended until further notice.

## Deacon George's Weekly Message

[Click here to read Deacon George's message.](#)

## Deacon Tom's Weekly Message

[Click here to read Deacon Tom's message.](#)

## Online Worship Opportunities

Please consider these options to worship virtually with our larger church community during the suspension of service at SJEC.



You can view the Lectionary calendar of readings [here](#).

We also have worship & music resources on our website [here](#).

- [Daily Office](#): Mon - Fri at 7:00 am & 9:00 am (CST); Friday Night Evensong at 8:00 pm
- [St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral](#) in Minneapolis  
Click the link and scroll through the services.
- [Washington National Cathedral](#)  
Click the link to see times. National Cathedral is in Washington, D.C., so times listed will be Eastern.
- [Washington National Cathedral previously recorded services](#)
- House of Prayer: Click [here](#) for an update and a Zoom invitation to join weekly meditative prayer on Wednesdays from 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

# Conversation About Gathering for Worship with ELCA/Dr. Osterholm

The decision of when and how to reopen the country is at the center of national conversation. This recorded conversation from epidemiologist and Minnesotan Dr. Michael Osterholm gives insight into what we know and what we need to think about as we move forward.

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

A few times guides for Dr. Osterholms' Q/A session

- \* 17:23 - thoughts on gathering together in the church as a group
- \* 19:05 - masks and their ineffectiveness to protect us
- \* 20:07 - masks and droplets vs. aerosols (he also discusses this earlier in the video)
- \* 20:48 - cloth masks don't impact transmission
- \* 21:54 - rationale why there should be no gatherings + severe second wave potential next fall
- \* 23:43 - voluntary infection as a means to combat the virus
- \* 27:46 - if we can gather during a respite, what about communion and singing?
- \* 32:03 - substituting the term physical distancing for social distancing
- \* 34:52 - worshipping outside

## Meet your Bishop-elect at your Mission Area Gathering (via ECMN newsletter)

Bishop-elect Loya is now beginning the work of transitioning to Minnesota. He is deeply engaged in learning the ins and outs of ECMN. All in ECMN are invited to save the date for the gathering of the Mission Area in which their faith community belongs, as it is a great opportunity to spend time with the Bishop-elect. Mission Area Teams, members of Council who plan these gatherings, are hard at work to make these gatherings meaningful for all!

[Click here for more information about the May 9 gathering.](#)

## In Case You Missed It: Godly Play video from 5/2/2020

John Hoover created a Godly Play video for our Sunday School kids. You can view it [HERE](#) on the SJEC website.

## Youth Sunday—May 17

Last year, ECMN hosted over 600 children and youth from 43 faith communities in camps and retreats. 1 out of 5 young people needed scholarships to participate. Although COVID-19 is changing the shape of programming in the next few months, ECMN will continue to provide youth-centered faith experiences this summer and for years to come. We need your support! In lieu of the full plate offering that had been planned for youth scholarships, we hope that you

will help by sending a check to church. Please make it out to St. John's, and write ECMN Youth Fund on the memo line. Thank you!

Betsy Hoover, Youth Minister

## Mission Ministry Update: Community Garden



### Community Garden

*The mission of the Community Garden is the broadening and deepening of community engagement between members of the cooperating institutions. Cultural sharing is everyone's responsibility and opportunity because everyone has something of value to bring. The soil, the fence, the seeds, the water—all these are tools not only for growing food, but also for growing friendships.*

St. John's Community Garden began to form in 2015 with the the above mission statement and was followed by the first garden plantings in 2016. What started as a coalition between St. John's Episcopal Church, Higher Ground Church of God in Christ, Peace United Church of Christ, African Women's Alliance and the Coalition for Homeless Men has evolved into a collaborative effort between St. John's and the African Women's Alliance.

The garden consists of 15 plots measuring 10 x 15', a shed of tools to share\*, 3 composters, and programmed watering. The cost is \$20 per plot and many years we split a plot for gardeners to share. Each gardener is responsible for planting, weeding, harvesting, and cleaning up their own plot. Our garden is totally organic and each year we plant flowers to encourage pollinators. Any harvest excess is encourage to be shared so it is not unusual to see fresh produce in the Parish Hall in late summer.

Many of the gardeners have been with us the beginning and it is heartwarming to see their friendly faces each Spring. This year we have a waiting list for gardeners! Now for some warmer weather!

*Kathryn Pratt*  
*Chairperson*

\*Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the shed will not be accessible and tools will not be shared. Should our situation stabilize and it is safe to share tools, we will resume that practice.

## Helping Those Experiencing Homelessness

The stay-at-home order and disruption of normal life has been devastating to the people experiencing homelessness in our community. Grass roots organizations like Neighbors to Friends and Homeless Helping Homeless have been providing meals and supplies on M/W/F at Lake George to about 25 people experiencing homelessness. They have also been providing breakfasts to people sheltering in area hotels.

Laundry Love can't meet because of COVID-19, but has been providing our friends being housed in hotels with weekly quarters and soap. A few quarters make a huge difference!

Want to help?

- Drop off quarters in Nancy Dyson's mailbox at the church or Lake George on M/W/ F between 2:00 - 3:00 (look for Nancy and others handing out meals and supplies)
- Donate meals provide meals. Contact [Nancy Dyson](#) for more information.
- Donate money to provide meals. You can send checks to:

Neighbors to Friends  
1945 N Benton Dr #26  
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379



**Supporting Our Community - Starfish Dwelling Update**

Our friend Nick has settled into the Starfish Dwelling. While the SFD is a blessing during this time of COVID19, it can also be a bit lonely. Nick can receive mail at the church. If you would like, please feel free to send him cards and words of encouragement:

Nick Matter  
c/o St. John Episcopal Church  
1111 Cooper Avenue South  
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301-4829



You can support the SFD ministry by buying SCRIP cards. These are gift cards you buy at cost and the SFD ministry gets a percentage. Please consider buying some gift cards for things you purchase in our community. Costco, Target, and Kwik Trip are just a few of the options.

How to purchase:

1. Go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com).
2. Enter our enrollment code: **6F77786466429**.
3. Buy cards for things that you already purchase or as a gift.

Email [Liz](#) with questions.

## Weekly Giving

Thank you to those of you who make your contributions through the plate who have mailed their contributions to the church! Unfortunately, the suspension of services only marginally reduces our costs while we are also forgoing income from others' use of our building. So, I encourage those of you who are Sunday givers to continue to give by mail, as you are able. Please contact the office if you would like the church to send you prepaid envelopes or if you would like to set up automatic payments ("ACH") from your bank. Please have ACH forms to the office by **May 4** to begin withdrawal by **May 15**.



In gratitude,  
Jim Wiant - Treasurer

## Intercessions

During the month of May, please pray for all academic graduates, for all educational institutions, and for the specialized chaplaincies in those institutions. Remember especially ECMN's School for Formation, Breck School and Shattuck-St. Mary's and their chaplains, University Episcopal Community and all those who work with campus ministries.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation especially, Sydney Baker, Dorothy Bernardy, Aaron Boatz and family, Casey, Frances Frederickson, Sally Fulweiler, Gary, Joshua Hart, Jade, Court Kenaston, Lisa & family, Sandy Logeman, Nicole, Raejean, Mary Robbins, Ruth, Phyllis Schindeldecker, Mary Ellen Smith, Mike Smith, Bill & Kay Stambaugh, Amara Strande, Tommy, Rocky White, Queen Williams, Kathy Yackley, Norman & Evelyn Ykema and Ed Zins.

We pray in thanksgiving for our friends and members, especially, Emily, Ian, & Marcela Kuffner, Eburn, Elizabeth & Belinda Labor & Shemiam Nicol, Susan Larson, Marlene & Leon Laudenbach, and Jen, Bob, Noah, Griffin, Quinn, Maddox & Holden Lessinger.

## Scripture for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

- [Acts 7:55-60](#)
- [Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#)
- [1 Peter 2:2-10](#)
- [John 14:1-14](#)

## Leadership & Staff

[Click here to contact Wardens, Vestry, Clergy, and the office.](#)



## St. John's Contact Information

Usual Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 10:30 – 1:30

Tuesday and Friday: 10:30 – Noon

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