



The Lion's Tale

MAY/JUNE 2024



Easter 2024



On Easter, the class heard three stories, waved the long Alleluia flag outside to celebrate Jesus' resurrection, and enjoyed the egg hunt. Four babies, including Evy, James and Corinne, celebrated their first Easter.

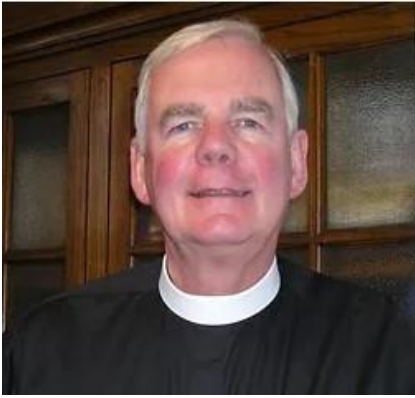
Godly Play Class

Before Easter, the Godly Play class and some of the older children reenacted the events of Holy Week. This year, Hannah played the part of Jesus. We waved palms for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, washed feet, had the last supper, prayed in the garden, and carried the cross.



The children joined the procession into church on Palm Sunday and afterwards, gathered sticks to burn on the following week for the Easter vigil fire.





Dear Parishioners:

Time really flies!!! It seems as though we were recently working our way through Lent and into Holy Week, and now we're more than halfway through the Great Fifty Days of Easter, which will officially end on Pentecost, May 19 this year.

After the Day of Pentecost, we'll be entering what I call the "long green season," those seemingly countless "Sundays After Pentecost," where the liturgical color is green. That season, which our Roman Catholic siblings call "Ordinary Time," will take us through summer and fall, and will only end on the last Sunday before Advent begins again.

But meanwhile, we have some requests from you to use "real bread" for Communion, and we'll try that. We've had requests to go back to Communion at the altar rail (so folks can receive as a family, and we're looking at doing that. We've recently had a Baptism, and we'll have another when Bishop Deon visits St. Mark's in July. The Bishop's visitation is also a great day for Confirmations and Receptions, so if any of you are considering taking that step, please let me or Deacon Jerre know.

Your Rector Search Committee has compiled all the surveys you completed, along with feedback gleaned from the Coffee Conversations, and their next step will be to "walk the neighborhood," and interview local leaders such as first responders, librarians, school principals, clinical personnel, etc., to get a clearer picture of the status and needs of our surrounding community.

From those surveys mentioned above, we discovered that several of you describe yourselves as "non-members" of St. Mark's. In case any non-members would like to know what "official" membership involves, we have added a "Membership" page to the "About Us" tab on the St. Mark's website.

So, even in the summer days of "ordinary time," these are exciting times in the life of St. Mark's.

Now, as we move together into the future, may Almighty God, who has redeemed us, and made us God's children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of God's blessing,

Michael+

Rite 13 Celebration– May 5th

On Sunday, May 5th, we will be celebrating a Rite 13 Liturgy honoring Lucy Danieleley who has been participating in Rite 13 classes along with other youths in the area throughout the Diocese of Missouri.

The journey from childhood to adulthood begins with adolescence, a time in which youth take on the gifts and challenges of physical maturity as they continue to learn and grow emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually. The Rite 13 ceremony celebrates the beginning of this journey, marking a young person's progress beyond childhood, acknowledging their new status and responsibilities in the community and the world, and providing support and companionship for the path ahead. The Rite 13 Ceremony marks something in their life that is not actually a decision: turning thirteen, which is a significant age in many cultures. They can choose whether to participate in a Rite 13 ceremony, but they will turn thirteen whether or not they participate. The ceremony allows us to recognize this journey from childhood to adulthood and to pledge to support one another through it. Part of this journey to adulthood is an opportunity to prepare for confirmation and decide whether to be confirmed.

Please join us Sunday, May 5th and support Lucy in her decision to participate in this event and in welcoming her to the adult community of St. Mark's.

Rector Search Committee



Rector Search

The Rector Search Committee met after church to review our Parish Survey results. Thanks to all of you for completing your surveys. We tabulated the paper surveys and included them with the online surveys and the feedback we got from the children. The results were so interesting and helpful! The number one thing that parishioners told us they want to do more of was to do more Outreach to help our community. Also high on the list were to involve the children more in worship, and to have more parties and social gatherings, along with Adult

Education regarding both current topics and our faith. You told us that the most important quality in a new rector was to be skilled at Pastoral Care. Also they should be someone who is skilled at bringing people together, and who is skilled at giving sermons. In the written suggestions you told us about the importance of attracting young families, and better follow-up with people who are new to St Mark's. You also suggested adding a children's play area, which might include a maze and/or playground equipment. We have shared our results with the St Mark's Vestry. We are working to gather more information from the community about the type of Outreach that is needed, and we appreciate your input. Next, we are moving into writing our Parish Profile. Once we complete it, and it is approved, we can publish it and begin to advertise for our new rector.

Margaret Hvatum

On April 28th, we baptized Corinne Elizabeth Roche. Along with her parents Andrew and DeAnne and her sponsors, Derek and Kelsy, we are all excited to welcome her into the St. Mark's Family.



Musical Notes from Barbara



On **Sunday, May 12, at 9:45** am our Kairos program will be a **Hymn Sing** in which we'll sing as many of the submitted "favorite hymns" as we are able to use. I'm happy for us to be able to sing these hymns, and thought I'd take this opportunity to write about how our regular Sunday morning hymns are selected.

It's part of my job responsibilities to choose hymns in consultation with the rector. This is a time-consuming and sometimes challenging task, and definitely not one of selecting "favorite hymns," mine or anyone else's. It begins by studying the lectionary readings appointed for the day and finding hymns which fit with them. There are a number of published guides that are very helpful in this process. For some Sundays this is relatively easy—there are quite a few hymns to choose from. For others there are fewer, and I then select hymns appropriate to the season, if not directly to the readings. There are also musical matters to consider: for instance, where to place each hymn in the service. I try not to have the quietest, most reflective hymns at the beginning or the end, or the liveliest ones during communion. As always, there are exceptions to this rule.

Most of the hymns we sing come from the Hymnal 1982, but sometimes I include selections from three other hymnals published by the Episcopal Church: **Wonder Love and Praise (WLP)**, which includes hymns in a variety of musical styles, **Voices Found (VF)**, a collection of hymns with texts or tunes by or about women, and **Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS)**, which is a collection of spirituals and other hymns from the African American tradition. Occasionally, I'll choose a hymn which seems appropriate from another hymnal.

I've introduced quite a few new hymns during my time at St. Mark's, and in doing so I have had to consider a number of things: whether or not the hymn is singable by our congregation, and whether its text and tune are well-written and in good taste. I also keep a database of all the hymns we sing, including the dates we've sung them. This allows me to see when we last used a particular hymn, so we don't repeat it too frequently.

I look forward to our **May 12 Hymn Sing** and to being able to sing some of your "favorite hymns" that we don't often use. As noted on the submission form, any hymns not selected will be held for future use, either on Sundays or at a future Hymn Sing.

I'm very grateful for the robust hymn singing at St. Mark's. We are truly a singing congregation!

Barbara Raedeke

Pentecost Story read in several languages



On Sunday May 19th, we have the privilege of having the Pentecost Story in several languages. A call went out for parishioners to volunteer to read in a different language than English and we got a wonderful response. Eight different languages including English will help to make this Pentecost reading one to remember. Thank you to all who volunteered.

Here are the Readers and their languages:

Marilyn Wiethop	Latin
Matthew Cashen	Greek
Margaret Hvatum	Norwegian
Barbara Raedeke	German
Melissa Edwards	Italian
Carlos Carrillo	Spanish
Teresa Danieley	French

Upcoming Pride Month Events



The poster features a vibrant background with blue, red, and orange wavy shapes. A large white circle in the upper left contains the text 'PRIDE PRAYER SERVICE' in bold, multi-colored letters. Below this is a shield-shaped logo with a cross and a blue square containing a white cross. A yellow rounded rectangle contains the text 'EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL'. Three red checkmarks are followed by the event details: 'Sunday, June 2', '5:00 pm', and '9 South Bompert Saint Louis, MO 63119'. A green rounded rectangle at the bottom contains the website 'emmanuelepiscopal.org'. On the right side, a circular purple frame contains a photograph of a church with a tall, copper-roofed steeple.

**PRIDE
PRAYER
SERVICE**

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL

- ✓ Sunday, June 2
- ✓ 5:00 pm
- ✓ 9 South Bompert
Saint Louis, MO
63119

emmanuelepiscopal.org

Pride Evensong & Reception June 9 at 4:30 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church, Central West End
Please join us for a very special Pride Evensong with not one - but two bishops! Our very own Bishop Deon Johnson and his good friend, Bishop Kevin Robertson (Diocese of Toronto) will be with us to kick off our Pride Month celebrations. The evensong will be followed by a reception and ministry fair in the parish hall. Trinity is located at 600 N Euclid Ave at, Washington Ave, St. Louis, MO 63108.

St. Louis PrideFest and Grand Parade June 29 & 30 There will be a Mass on the Grass, a booth, and group walking in the parade on Sunday. For more information, on any of these events, email lgbtqiaministry@diocesemo.org.

From your Deacon...



One of my favorite quotations from Jesus appears in the gospel of John when Jesus is encountering “Doubting Thomas” (who I still think gets a bum rap!): “*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.*” Yes, Jesus understands how difficult it is for us, some 2,000 years later, to believe that God made God’s self incarnate and came into our world to teach us how God intends for us to live – to teach us that we are all one with each other, one with all of creation, one with God. Since we cannot now see the risen Christ, that’s where our faith comes into play. Faith is a mystery of the heart that the mind wants to solve. But to admit that we take certain things on faith is to say that we are willing for things not to make perfect sense to us, that we never know for absolutely sure we are right. Living in faith means we are trusting in God’s guidance and mercy, not our own imperfect understanding.

I have faith that, using our Anglican three-legged stool of scripture, reason, and tradition, we can discern how God intends for God’s creation to live. I have faith that we know how to bring about God’s kingdom on earth – by obeying God’s commandment to love one another, to love our neighbors (particularly the marginalized and oppressed) as an extension of ourselves. I also have faith that God remains with us today and is present in each and every one of us as the Holy Spirit. With that, God is as available to us and as accessible as our breath itself.

Quoting the late Vietnamese ecumenical theologian, Thich Nhat Hanh: “*Our faith must be alive. Our faith must evolve every day and bring us joy, peace, freedom, and love. Faith involves practice, living our lives in mindfulness.*” Growing in faith becomes part of our ongoing spiritual journey, and growing in faith means our joy, peace, freedom and love will increase. As we are still in the Easter season, we continue to respond by proclaiming – Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In Christ,
Deacon Jerre

BIBLE STUDY



As part of our parish discernment, some people have requested Bible Study. Emmanuel Episcopal Church is opening up their long-standing weekly Bible Study to St. Markans. The Bible Study occurs over Zoom every Wednesday morning at 8:00. The scriptures studied are the lectionary readings for the following Sunday. If you would like to participate in this Bible Study, please let Deacon Jerre know, and he will get you the Zoom link to use to be able to participate. If you would like to have Bible Study, but this time does not work for you, let Deacon Jerre know that as well, and a second Bible Study time may be offered.



The Bishop’s Annual Appeal is an opportunity for us to financially support three specific diocesan ministries, over and above the funds allocated through our annual budgeting process. This year’s appeal runs from May through August. Our goal is to raise \$30,000, which will be split between these three prioritized ministries The Just Food Truck, Camp Phoenix Scholarship Fund and the Chester Hines Racial Reconciliation Fund.

You can give online at diocesemo.org/give and select “Bishop’s Annual Appeal” or mail your donation to The Diocese of Missouri 1210 Locust Street St. Louis, MO 63103.

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays 7:00pm

Thursdays 7:30 pm

May 5th

May 10th

May 11th

May 12th

March 19th

May 20th

May 26th

June 2nd

June 9th

June 17th

June 23rd

June 29-30th

AA Meeting

Choir Practice (Ends for the Summer on May 23)

Lucy Danieley's Rite 13 Liturgy (see page 3)

Office Closed

Ann Vannier Memorial Service 4pm (reception follows)

Kairos Sunday- "Hymn Sing" 9:45am

Pentecost Sunday (see page 5)

Vestry Meeting 7pm (Zoom)

Healing Service after 10am Service

Pride Prayer Service at Emmanuel 5pm (see page 6)

Pride Evensong and Reception 4:30pm (see page 6)

Vestry Meeting 7pm in Proehl Room

Healing Service after 10am Service

St. Louis Pride Fest and Grand Parade (see page 6)



In the garden, the children transplanted the pea plants that they grew at home. They were excited to harvest their first peas on April 14th.



The Lion's Tale is published bi-Monthly by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Melissa Engle-Editor

To submit an article email it to parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org.
Deadline for article submissions are listed below.

June 26th Deadline for July/August Lion's Tale

August 28th September/October Lion's Tale

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

4714 Clifton Ave St. Louis, MO 63116

www.saintmarks-stl.org