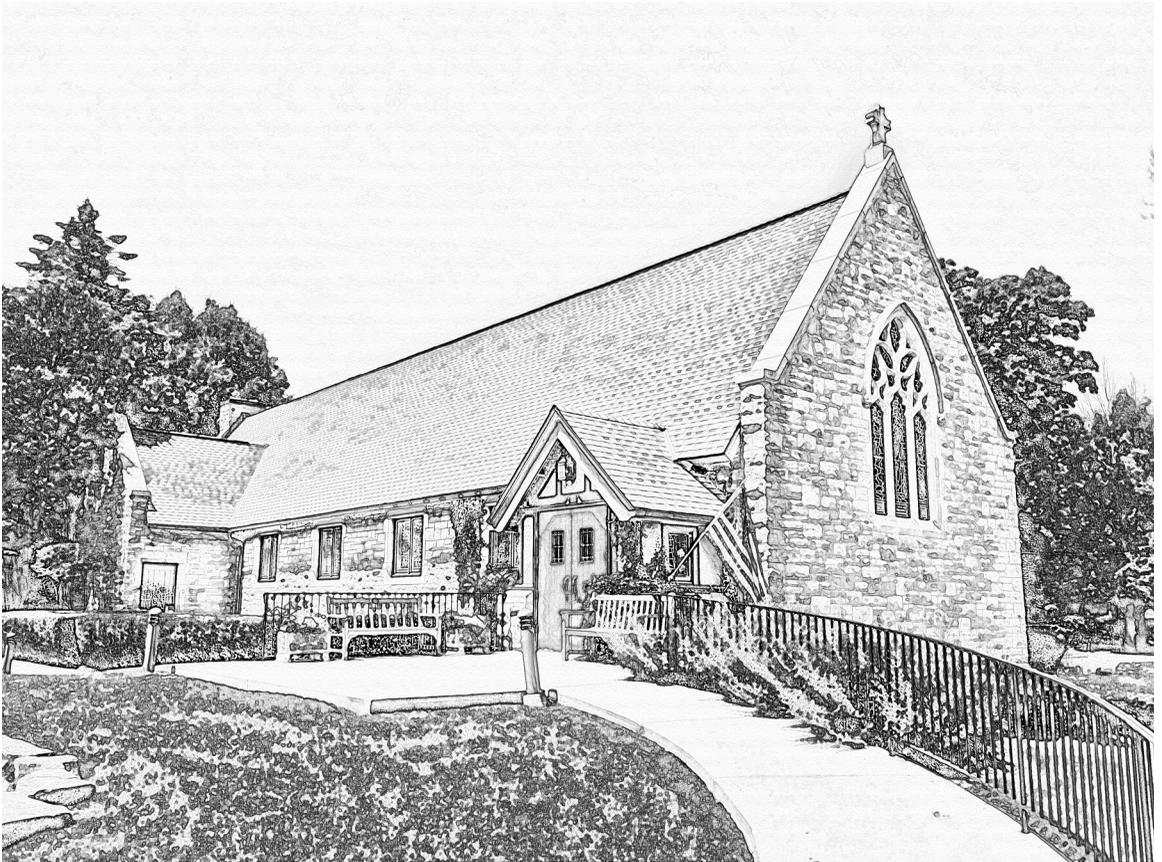

ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

10:00 AM

Welcome to Saint Elisabeth's. We are delighted to have you with us today.



This faith community invites all persons to all levels of participation, leadership and decision-making within the church regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, socioeconomic and marital status. We seek to establish meaningful connections with one another through work and play and worship as we strive to understand God's purpose for us in the church and in the world.

In the Church Year: Lent

Figuring out how to keep a holy Lent can be a challenge, but if we move beyond the popular conceptions (and misconceptions), Lent holds the possibility for real change — or to use the church’s word, conversion — in our lives, as well as for rich and lasting spiritual growth. (The word “lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencton*, referring to the springtime of the year when the days grow longer and warmer and brighter.)

Lent emerged in our history as a season of final preparation for those who would be baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter. The entire Christian community was highly invested in walking alongside those who were about to commit their lives to Christ. In time, the season took on some extra layers of meaning, and many people now associate it with listening for a deeper awareness of our own sin — how we fall short of the ideals God sets before us — and the need for ongoing repentance and amendment of life.

That said, joy in the new life we have found in the Christian faith should never be overwhelmed by our struggles to live out that faith or our awareness of the ways we fall short. We can see Lent as an opportunity to deepen our spiritual lives. In Lent we step back and consider the ways we need to repent, to turn around — to be converted.

During Lent we as individual Christians and as a church — the Body of Christ — consider our spiritual health. How are we living the gospel in our lives, our homes, our churches, our towns, our schools, our places of work? What areas of growth or signs of renewal should we celebrate with gratitude and joy? In what ways have we fallen short, grown stagnant or cold-hearted, or failed to love God by embracing new life when we encounter it? These are the kinds of questions we ask ourselves during the weeks of Lent. ~ *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*

Today at St. Elisabeth’s

8:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship & Forum, Children’s Sunday School

Sunday Forum:

Each Sunday, we gather after coffee for a discussion on the lessons, music, and sermon from the morning service; with frequent special presentations.

Children’s Sunday School

Children of all ages are invited to meet in the classroom on the 2nd floor following the 10 a.m. service to learn about the Bible and have some fun together.

Entering In

Jesus said “Unless the grain of wheat die it remains just a single grain.” This means that this concocted False Self, this manufactured identity that is who we all think we are, has to go. That's what the language of being “born again” really means. It's not some kind of magical transaction that takes place between you and God, but the death of the passing self, the one you have created for yourself. -- Richard Rohr in *The Immortal Diamond*

Practice: Take time this week to look into the mirror, your medicine cabinet, your check book, and your journal, if you keep one. What can you learn there about your “false self” and your “true self”?



Nicodemus – Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1859-1937

Morning Prayer

Prelude

Please stand, as you are able, and join in singing.

Opening Hymn

“Eternal Lord of Love”

Unison or harmony

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

The Hymnal 1982 #149, Text: Thomas Cain (b 1931), Music: *Old 124th*

Opening Sentence

Officiant

Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Joel 2:13

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **Most merciful God,**
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

All Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in
eternal life. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

Assembly **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

Assembly **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Response – Gloria Patri

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Jubilate

All **The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us
adore him.**

Officiant Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
 serve the Lord with gladness
 and come before his presence with a song.

Assembly **Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
 he himself has made us, and we are his;
 we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Officiant Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
 go into his courts with praise; *
 give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

Assembly **For the Lord is good;
 his mercy is everlasting; *
 and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

All **The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us
adore him.**

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
 from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD, *
 the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved *
 and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
 shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Choral Response – Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Lessons

The First Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in

a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

The Canticle

Canticle 9 – The First Song of Isaiah “Surely It Is God Who Saves Me”



1 Sure - ly it is God — who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not
2 Make his deeds — known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed



fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his



help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
might pro - claim. Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with



va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the



liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

The Second Reading

John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

The Canticle

Canticle 16 – The Song of Zechariah “We Bless You, God of Israel”



We bless you, God of Is - ra - el; you come to set your peo - ple free. In
You prom-ised through the proph-et's word to save your peo-ple from their foes; in
This child will go be-fore the Lord, the van - guard of Mes - si - ah's way, preach-
Your ten - der love, like ear - ly dawn, her-alds the day of end - less peace; the



Je - sus, born of Da - vid's line, sal - va - tion springs for all to see.
free - dom they will wor - ship you, fear - less, de - liv - ered from their woes.
ing for - give - ness full and free, the pre - lude to God's per - fect day.
dark - ness of death's shad - ow fades; your jus - tice reigns, and will not cease.

Aldrich/Spencer, *The Eighth Tune, Tallis*

Sermon

Mark Tilton

A period of silence follows the reflection, begun and ended with a chime. Please stand as you are able for the creed and prayers.

The Creed

“I believe in God almighty”

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
 fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
 in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
 died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Wonder, Love, and Praise #768, Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993), Music: Dornnach Trionoide, Gaelic melody

The Prayers

The People stand or kneel.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

Assembly **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

All

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

*Officiant
Assembly*

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.

*Officiant
Assembly*

Clothe your ministers with righteousness.
Let your people sing with joy.

*Officiant
Assembly*

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.

*Officiant
Assembly*

Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

*Officiant
Assembly*

Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.

*Officiant
Assembly*

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

*Officiant
Assembly*

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant God of compassion, lover of our wayward race, you bring to birth a pilgrim people, and call us to be a blessing for all the world. Give us grace to receive your generous gift and walk with courage on this holy path, confident in the radiant life that is your design for us, made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assembly **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

Officiant O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assembly **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Officiant Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assembly **Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Officiant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

Thank you for your generous giving to the mission and ministry of St. Elisabeth's Church. You can leave a donation in the offering plate or use your phone to scan the QR code to donate online.



Offertory Music

“As the wind song”



1 As the wind song through the trees, as the stir - ring of the
2 As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the hope that's born a -



breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of God,
gain, so it is with the Spir - it of God,



as the heart made strange-ly warm, as the voice with - in the
as the green in the . . . spring, as a kite on a . . .



storm, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
string, so it is with the Spir - it of God,

Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has
 mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come
 blown bring - ing life, bring - ing pow'r to the world,
 true, bring - ing gifts, bring - ing love to the world,
 as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -
 as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the wine at the . . .
 sire, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
 feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.

All Creation Sings #943, Text: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020), Music: Lim Swee Hong (b 1963)

Prayers of the People

Common Worship

- Intercessor* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.
- Intercessor* God, in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* Strengthen Paula our bishop and all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Intercessor God, in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Bless and guide Donald, our president; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.

Intercessor God, in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours, that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Intercessor God, in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially

Sally Graver

Sherry Schellenbach

Aidan Thomson

Isabelle Thomson

Anne Tuohy

Ben Whipple, son of Larry & Susan Whipple

Chuck Southwick & family, friend of Susan & Larry Whipple

Heather Reimer, cousin of Kara Superfine

Vicki Whipple, aunt of Kara Superfine

Donna, friend of Walter Aldrich

James, grandson of Deborah

Lexi Valasek, mother of Montessori student

Christine Carlson, mother of Montessori student

Are there others?

Intercessor Give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Intercessor God, in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Intercessor God, in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Rejoicing in the fellowship of St. Elisabeth and all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

Intercessor God, in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

Assembly **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

All **Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give**

us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Grace

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Welcome and Announcements

Blessings for Birthday, Anniversaries, and Travelers

Jim Baur – March 3

Andrew Edelston – March 4

Closing Hymn

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
For if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Fine



1. I am weak___ and I need thy strength and power to___
 2. Help me tread___ in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my
 3. I am lost___ if you take your hand from me, I am



1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me
 2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am
 3. blind with - out___ thy light to see; Lord, just



1. through the dark - ness thy face to see,
 2. put - ting all___ my trust in thee.
 3. al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.



1. Lead me, Oh Lord,___ lead me._____
 2. Lead me, Oh Lord,___ lead me._____
 3. Lead me, Oh Lord,___ lead me._____

Lift Every Voice and Sing #194, Text and Music: Doris Akers (b. 1922)

Dismissal

Officiant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Assembly

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coming Up at St. Elisabeth's

Sunday School Food Drive

The Sunday School students are beginning their food drive project. This is an opportunity for our youth to make decisions that positively impact their community. All items received will go to the New Trier food pantry. Carter and Amelia Superfine have decided that the donation for March will be canned beans and tomato soup. All items will go to New Trier Food Pantry. Please check the backs of your pantries and consider donating!

Can Commitment Be Balanced With the Desire for Personal Freedom?

St. E's Book Group will discuss Doris Lessing's famous short story "To Room Nineteen" at 1 pm on **Tuesday, March 10** in the parish meeting room at the top of the stairs. A winner of many literary awards, Lessing received the Nobel Prize in 2007. Questions, contact Joycernewcomb@gmail.com. Thanks, Joyce Newcomb

Feeding People with Interfaith Action

It's time again to host diners at the Evanston Methodist Church. On **Thursday, March 12** we will need help with preparing sack lunches at St Elisabeth's and then preparing a hot meal at the Methodist Church. Keep us in mind! — Susan Newcomb and John Tuohy

Spring Leadership Summit:

Ready to Grow? Practical Planning for Congregational Renewal

Saturday, March 14, 10 am-3:15 pm, St. Paul's in DeKalb

What keeps a church from growing? In this daylong workshop, we'll focus on the details of hospitality and evangelism that our guest facilitator, rector and author the Rev. Dr. Chris Corbin, calls organizational "hygiene."

Join peers from around the diocese learning to address the gaps that can quietly generate frustration, confusion, and missed connections—especially with first-time visitors who might never find their way back. All lay leaders and clergy are invited. Congregational teams of two or more will benefit most. \$10/person is requested to help offset lunch costs.

A Quiet Morning in Lent

On **Saturday, March 21**, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, you are invited to come to St. Elisabeth's for "A Quiet Morning in Lent." Elizabeth Clemmitt, our Associate for Spiritual Wellness, will facilitate a morning of self-directed quiet time during which you will be invited to explore various silent activities and spiritual practices that promote peaceful reflection and spiritual growth.

We will meet in the Guild Room at St. Elisabeth's where there will be stations with instructions and materials for activities including some crafts, puzzles, and books to peruse as well as prayer beads, journals and instructions for meditation. Participants can stay in the Guild Room or spread out into the sanctuary and outdoor spaces, including the labyrinth, weather permitting. Elizabeth and another spiritual companion, Patti Snickenberger, will be available for half-hour meetings of spiritual direction, and Adam will lead an optional session on the Ignatian Examen. He will also be available in the chapel to offer prayers one-on-one, including prayers for healing or a time of confession.

Fruit, cheese and beverages will be available starting at 9:00 AM. We will begin the morning together at 9:15 with a short introduction, and then quiet will be observed until 11:40 AM, when we will gather again to reflect on our experiences and close with a prayer. You are encouraged to come for the entire time, but if you can only come for part of it, you are also welcome. Please register in advance by emailing Elizabeth at elizabeth.clemmitt@gmail.com. We hope you can join us!

Assisting Today

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| <i>Officiant</i> | Mark Tilton |
| <i>Preacher</i> | Mark Tilton |
| <i>First Reading</i> | Fred Johnston |
| <i>Prayers</i> | Hall Healy |
| <i>Altar Guild</i> | Glenna Foley |
| <i>Usher</i> | John Tuohy |
| <i>Coffee Hour</i> | John Tuohy |

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago
The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop*

Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

Clergy & Staff

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| The Rev. Adam Spencer | <i>Rector</i> |
| The Rev. Larry Handwerk | <i>Priest Associate</i> |
| Walter Aldrich | <i>Director of Music</i> |
| Caryl Medsker | <i>Director of Administration</i> |
| Abigail Pribble | <i>Director of Children's Formation</i> |
| Elizabeth Clemmitt | <i>Associate for Spiritual Wellness</i> |

2025 Vestry

Robert Fischer, *Warden*
Fred Johnston
Jamie Kim

Carrie Miller-Mygatt,
Warden

Kara Superfine
Mark Tilton, *Treasurer*
John Tuohy, *Asst. Treasurer*

Sunday Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist: Rite I
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist: Rite II
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Forum, and Sunday School



Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday – 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

*We at St. Elisabeth's share an adventurous spirit and a commitment
to radiate God's love within and beyond our red doors.*