Saint Simon's Episcopal Church, 717 W. Kirchhoff Road, Arlington Heights, Il www.saintsimons.org

Common Good

Common Good Presses Forward

We remember before our God your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonian 1:3

Saint Paul is writing to the young Christian community in Thessalonica giving thanks for the enduring good work of the congregation – often against all odds. His words are like an echo in our ears.

Common Good formed in August 2026 to lead St. Simon's in addressing the pressing social issues of the day, and seek, as non-partisans, to engage our community and our country to address polices that threaten the welfare of all God's people. As Paul says, we are inspired by the love of Jesus Christ.

While there is a wide range of social issues that call for our attention, *Common Good* is currently leading St. Simon's to focus on the mid-term elections. We bring attention to voter registration, how to locate particular polling places, early voting and voting by mail, as well as ways that you can work at the polls.

Later in September you will have the opportunity to be part of a "Get Out the Vote" postcard opportunity. These postcards, see page 2, are **not linked to any pollical party** but are targeted to communities who rarely if ever have voted.

Common Good: Kate Boon, Deborah Dresser, Barb Drummond, Suzie Fitterer, Carol Forsythe, and Cleo Nyko.

THE Episcopal CHURCH

Vote Faithfully

Vote Faithfully comes from the Episcopal Office of Government Relations. The web page has a variety of ways to successfully engage in the run up to elections. Since July Vote Faithfully has offered monthly teach-ins on a range of topics related to voting. The last two Networking Calls on zoom are on Oct. 1st and Nov. 5th. Registration is necessary. **https://www.episcopalchurch.org/vote faithfully**

A Franciscan Prayer

MAY GOD BLESS YOU with discomfort,
at easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships
so that you may live
deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for
justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears,
to shed for those who suffer pain,
rejection, hunger, and war,
so that you may reach out your hand
to comfort them and
to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you
with enough foolishness
to believe that you can
make a difference in the world,
so that you can do
what others claim cannot be done,
to bring justice and kindness
to all our children and the poor.

Work On Election Day

Every election in suburban Cook County requires a team of Election Judges and Polling Place Technicians to serve voters at the polls. These poll workers are paid $250-$400 depending on the position they work on Election Day. Both election judges and Polling Place Technicians must be trained.

Election Judges work together to ensure their polling place is running smoothly and voters are properly served. This position earns $250.

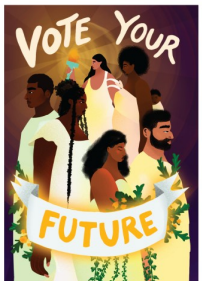
Polling Place Technicians work directly with the Election Judges to assist voters and ensure their polling place is running smoothly. Polling Place Technicians also have more responsibility for setting up and maintaining the voting equipment. Due to the additional responsibility, Polling Place Technicians receive more training and higher pay.

Students also will play a critical role in the elections of 2026. Their votes will help determine who leads our nation and their service as poll workers will be critical to our democratic process.

For more information and to apply for training contact: www.cookcountyclerk.gov/elections/your-voter

Making a Difference

On Sunday, September 27th, Saint Simon's will begin a non-partisan postcard campaign directed exclusively to communities who in the past have not participated in voting. This non-partisan campaign is organized by the Center for Common Ground (not to be confused with our Common Good), a nationwide organization started in 1918 by women focusing their work in suppression states where more than 20% of voters are voters of color.



www.centerforcommonground.org

A Parish-wide Opportunity

Beginning on the 27th Common Good will have packets of 5 postcards for you to take home. Each will include a script, the names and addresses of five recipients for you to take away and complete. We ask you to bring completed postcards with you to church on Sunday, October 11th. These completed postcards will be gathered and blessed at the Eucharist. They will be mailed the following day.

The Northwest Cluster Gathering

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers and sister to dwell together in unity.
Psalm 133 vs 1

Five Saint Simon's parishioners took part in this annual NW Cluster Gathering on August 29th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights. It brought together more than ten churches and organizations that are working on issues that call out for justice. Each spoke about the work they are doing.

Networking with many church groups encourages us to share ideas and lend mutual support. Here are a number of churches Saint Simon's has made common cause.

Southminster Pres | Saint Simon's Epis | FUCAH Methodist | Our Savior's Lutheran | St. Johns,UCC

Registration Deadlines
BY MAIL (POSTMARKED)
Tuesday, October 6, '26
ONLINE
Sunday, October 18, 2026
IN PERSON

Illinois' early voting: September 24 – November 2, 2026 at the election authority's office. Expanded locations open October 19, 2026.

Illinois offers in-person early voting for anyone beginning 40 days before Election Day (September 24, 2026) at the county election authority's office. Additional early voting sites open 15 days before Election Day (October 19, 2026). Grace-period registration and same-day voting are also available at early voting sites starting 27 days before Election Day.

For More Info
www.cookcountyclerkil.gov (elections (your-voter Your Voter Information - Cook County

Be sure to share this information on registering and voting with friends and neighbors. Encourage them to

GET OUT THE VOTE.

Check out **Ballotpedia.org** for helpful voter information.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
VOTE411.org

VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on much of the election process.