



Annunciation of Our Lady

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Magnificat

Dec 2017 /
Jan 2018

Evening Prayer



Evening Prayer....Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. Through this prayer, the people of God sanctify the day and offer prayers of intercession for the needs of the world. Beginning on Wednesday, November 1st we will be gathering in our chapel to pray the Evening Prayer together at **7pm**. All are welcome to join us on the **first Wednesday of each month** as we come together to give thanks for the day just past and make an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Please see Deb Bill or Sue Whipple with any questions. Hope to see you!

Annual Giving for 2018



Thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge card for 2018! As of December 1 we've received pledges from 42 households, for a total of \$195,398; we are well on our way of reaching our target of \$262,000 (the amount needed for a balanced budget in 2018).

If you haven't yet had a chance to submit your commitment for 2018, we invite you to do so soon. Additional pledge cards are available at the communication center in the narthex. Your continued "Yes" in support of Annunciation's excellent worship & music, engaging education programs, generous outreach, lively fellowship, and well-maintained physical plant makes it possible for us to be the hospitable, warm, and welcoming Body of Christ in Gurnee.

Cookie Walk ~ December 10th

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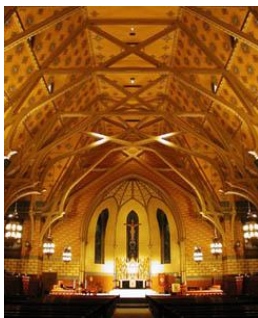


Yes!



It's true! Our parishioners are awesome! Thank you to all who have answered the call to help defray the cost of supplies for this year's Cookie Walk. Your generosity means every cookie sold becomes 100% profit for Annunciation. Remember to stop by Cookie Walk Central to pick up Baker Forms so you can let us know what delicacies you'll be contributing. There have already been rumblings of some friendly competitions firing up between a few of our bakers! Whose cookies will sell out first this year? Cookie Walk Central on the new communication wall has all the information you need. Check it out often for forms and updated information. Have questions or thoughts? Talk with Samantha Robison or Susan Schrunck.

Shay Craig Ordination



**December 16: 11 am
St. James Cathedral**

By the grace of God and with the consent of the people of God, the Right Reverend Jeffrey Lee, Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago, will ordain Shay Craig to the Sacred Order of Deacons, Saturday, December 16, 2017, 11am. St.

James Cathedral, 65 E. Huron St., Chicago. Please contact Rev. Elizabeth if you're planning to attend so we can organize ride sharing.

Ornament Exchange (Stealing) Party



Saturday, December 16th 7 pm

You'll want to be sure to attend this Probably (most likely) Slightly Raucous annual holiday event, on Saturday, December 16th, 7-9pm. Please bring a wrapped ornament - the more distinct and unique, the better! - valued at no more than \$10, along with an appetizer/snack/dessert and/or beverage to

share. Invite your friends! (This event is best for adults - 18+).

RSVP on the sign-up sheet on the communication wall in the Parish Hall.
Questions? See Rev. Elizabeth

Advent & Christmas at Annunciation

December 3

Advent 1 - ONE service at 9 am; 0 Antiphons + Eucharist

December 10

Advent 2 - services at 8 am and 10 am

December 10

Cookie Walk and Raffle, 9 am - 1 pm

December 16

Ornament Exchange, 7-9 pm

December 19th , 5 pm

January 21st , 5 pm

**Full schedule and
details on the website!**



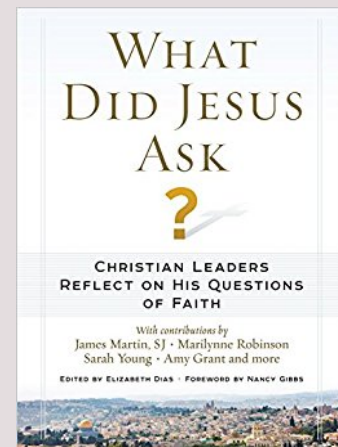
Adult Forum meets between the 8am and 10am services. Sessions are held in the adult forum room, just off the parish hall, near the kitchen. Everyone is welcome to attend, and no advance preparation is needed; just come with an open mind and a willingness to participate in lively discussion!

[2017 Adult Forum](#)

Rector's Study Groups

New Book ~ Rector's Study
Groups November 15th / 16th

The Wednesday morning and Thursday evening study groups will be starting a new book November 15/16 "What did Jesus ask?" Christian leaders reflect on his questions of faith (Edited by Elizabeth Dias). A schedule of reading will be available soon!



For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Elizabeth.

Book Club 2018



Book Club

West - Pullingers



Advent 3 - services at 8 am
and 10 am; Pageant at 10 am



December 24

Advent 4 December 24 - ONE service at 9 am

December 24

Christmas Eve - services at 4 pm and 9:30 pm ...

December 25

Christmas Day - ONE service at 10 am

December 31

First Sunday after Christmas - ONE service at 9 am;
Christmas Lessons and Carols + Eucharist

Mon, January 8, 2018, 7pm - 9pm

East - Potestas

Mon, January 15, 2018, 6pm - 8pm



Date:

Wednesday, Dec 27th

Wednesday, Jan 24th

Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm

Location: Lunch gathering for women of the parish at 1 pm. Location will rotate and date will be 4th Wed of each month. For reservations contact Jane Schaefer at 224-372-7940 or at cs.js@comcast.net



Christmas Servers Needed:



Acolytes, Crucifers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers

All Christmas services open

Signup sheets for all 3 Christmas services (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) are on the

information wall in the Parish Hall. If you would like to serve at these services, please sign up today. We need these positions filled during these important services! If you want to try something new, but are not sure of what you will need to do, training is available. Please contact Rev. Elizabeth or Susan O'Morchoe (susanom58@yahoo.com).

Annunciation's New Year Celebration

(formerly known as "Annual Meeting")

Please plan to attend Annunciation's New Year's Celebration - formerly known as "the Annual Meeting" - on **Sunday, January 28**, following **ONE service at 9am**. Yes, we'll vote for vestry members and a new junior warden, review the financial results of 2017 and present the 2018 budget, but, like many magazines and news outlets do, we'll take a look back, **celebrate the year just past**, telling stories about the highlights, and talk about what we're looking forward to in 2018. An expanded coffee hour, hosted by the vestry, will be part of the morning, as well. Plan for the celebration to last around 60-75 minutes.

Confirmation and Reception



In anticipation of Bishop Jeff Lee's visit on **Sunday, April 8**, we'll be offering classes for youth (**7th grade and up**) and adults who wish to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal church. Confirmation is an intentional, mature affirmation of the baptismal vows made on your behalf when you were baptized (which, for most people, happened in infancy or

very early childhood); being Received is for those who were confirmed in another liturgical tradition (i.e. Roman Catholic or Lutheran), but who wish to make a formal commitment to the Episcopal faith.

There are 5 classes, each of them covering one of the five questions that

Appalachia Service Project:



Appalachia Service Project: In April 2018, Annunciation will embark on its fourth trip to Appalachia, to work with other Appalachia Service Project (ASP) volunteers to help make damaged/sub-standard homes "warmer, safer, drier" (ASP's tagline). If you think you might be interested in joining this effort, please talk to Rev. Elizabeth or Mike Bill (3 year veterans) or any of the other Annunciation volunteers who have gone on previous trips (Deb Bill, Cindy Hibbard, Lisa Kleine, Cindy and Geoff Pullinger, Dave Schunk, Tony Waynick, Dan Whipple). They'll tell you that not only is the work satisfying and appreciated, but it's also a great opportunity to connect with other volunteers, and

are central to the baptismal covenant. The classes will be held on the following Sundays, beginning after the 10am service, and continuing until 1pm; lunch is included.

We'll be meeting on the following days:

February 4, February 18, February 25, March 4, March 11

If you are interested in participating, or have questions about the classes, please contact Maggie Attiyeh or Rev. Elizabeth.

From Our Sr. Warden

Deb Gallinger

Four years ago, when Carol Anderson asked me to consider becoming the junior warden, I was in a bit of a lull in my activities at Annunciation. I had just finished chairing the search committee that called Reverend Elizabeth to be our rector a few months earlier. I was just resuming the activities I enjoyed and had largely foregone through the sixteen month search. But I missed the collaboration and sense of purpose I enjoyed on the search committee and I realized I was not content to come to church and participate in a few activities. I readily accepted the offer presented to me by Carol and Reverend Elizabeth. At the time four years seemed like such a long commitment but the time seems to have flown by. When I started we were just beginning to explore a capital campaign, and now we are well over half way through, with a new HVAC system, new kitchen appliances, new front doors and a rebuilt front portico, a refreshed narthex, chapel and nave, new communication walls and we are on the way to enjoying completely redesigned lighting in the parish hall. Our beloved music director, Ron Lemke, retired and moved to Florida. Under Reverend Elizabeth's leadership we have taken advantage of the full range of expertise from the diocese, including for the past year the inspiring experience and amazing talent of Dent Davidson, the diocesan coordinator for liturgy and music. We have experienced a mutually rewarding relationship with Shay Craig, our soon to be ordained seminarian, offering her the opportunity to complete her internship, while taking advantage of her extensive experience in congregational growth and stewardship.

We redesigned our website and started to become a greater presence on Facebook. We have experienced a variety of support from several parish administrators. We have introduced new or revived old outreach opportunities, like the Gurnee parade, Driving Away Hunger program and support for the Veteran's Closet, which expand our presence in the community and offer greater support to those in need around us. We said goodbye to several beloved members of our parish and welcomed many new members.

Now as I prepare to leave the warden's position we are immersed in our new major fund raiser, the cookie walk. We are preparing to welcome a talented new music director, with lots of ideas for events and activities that appeal to a wider audience. And at a time when many congregations are facing large challenges, we remain a strong financially viable parish.

I have found the roles of junior and senior warden to be challenging, inspiring and humbling and it has been my absolute honor and privilege to serve Annunciation in this way. Thank you to all of you for offering me your love, your friendship and your support - I am very much in your debt. See you in church!



homeowners with life experiences very different than what we experience suburban Chicago. (It's also great fun, too!!) Trip dates are April 14 thru April 22, and we'll be traveling to Jonesville, Virginia. Cost is \$325 + transportation costs (last year we chipped in to rent a 10 person van and trailer).

Outreach Opportunities

Feed My Starving Children

for I was
Hungry
and you
gave me food...
Matthew 25:35

If you would like to be a part of this ministry of feeding the hungry please join us. Mark your Calendars ... Here are the Saturday dates,

9:00 am to 11:00 am

+Dec 30, 2017

+Jan 27, 2017

Last Saturday every Month

God's Peace and Blessings!
text/call @ 847-340-3253
Linda.lutter@hotmail.com



Pads



PADS ~ Hot Meal Program

Friday, December 15th

Friday, January 19th

On the menu - Turkey Meatloaf, Au Gratin Potatoes, Mixed Vegetable, Applesauce and Biscuits. Look for opportunities to support November's meal posted on Communication Board.

RECAP

Thanksgiving Sock Hop - Sock Hop Update THANK YOU to everyone who participated and helped in any way with our 50s

From Our Vestry

Vestry Adult Education Advisor
Michael Chatlien

Did Jesus have a sense of humor? This was one of several interesting questions asked by Shay Craig in the recent forum program Biblical Humor. For me, this question really helped to humanize Jesus. As Christians, of course, we view Jesus Christ as part of the Divine Trinity, one of the three persons in one God. As a result, Jesus is worshipped at services, prayed to, and sanctified. Although this attitude is fitting, it can place Jesus at a distance—a divine, perfect being to be adored. But Jesus was also human. This means he felt all the emotions of human beings, including fear (Garden of Gethsemane), anger (calling the pharisees "whitewashed tombs"), sadness (Lazarus's death), and joy (his loving relationship with people). A sense of humor is just a natural extension of joy. I can imagine Jesus making jokes sitting around the campfire with his disciples. In fact, aspects of Jesus's humor can be seen in some of his dealings with the disciples. For instance, when John and James asked Jesus to call down fire to kill some Samaritans, Jesus declined the request but also nicknamed them the Sons of Thunder (Mark 3:17). Jesus must have loved to laugh. Not a cruel laughter that denigrates people, but rather a joyous outpouring about the silliness and irony of life. For me, this is important to keep in mind because it helps me from taking myself too seriously. In The Book of Joy, Archbishop Desmond Tutu states, "The humor that doesn't demean is an invitation to everyone to join in the laughter. Even if they're laughing at you they're joining you in a laughter that feels wholesome."



and 60s Sock Hop to celebrate Veteran's Day! Although hosted by Annunciation, the event was sponsored by the Midwest Veteran's Closet and they provided turkey sandwiches, chips, drinks and a pair of patriotic socks to everyone attending. It was attended by over 50 people and we had a great time dancing to the oldies, playing fun trivia games including musical "socks!" We made new friends and we remembered the men and women of our armed forces by joining in for a nationwide 2 minutes of silence at 1:11. We look forward to making this an annual event and hope to see you next year!!!



From Our Rector

Elizabeth Molitors



In 2001, I went on a trip-of-a-lifetime, to New Zealand. Those two small islands contain just about every kind of landscape and topography you might ever want to see: oceans and seashores, mountains and lakes, rain forests and volcanos and hot springs. An excellent place to visit if you can't make up your mind about what aspect of nature you'd like to see.

New Zealand is also home to another topographical gem - fjords: narrow inlets surrounded by steep-sided cliffs. The fjords our travel group planned to visit were in a place called Milford Sound, on the south island, an area Rudyard Kipling once described as the 8th Wonder of the World; he was underselling it.

The only problem with Milford Sound is getting there. From our base city of Queenstown, the trip to Milford Sound was an almost 4-hour bus trip, through nausea-inducing, hair-raising twists and turns on narrow mountain roads. Not the best option, as far as I was concerned (I easily succumb to motion sickness). And so, we opted for the shorter, albeit riskier, travel route: flying, in tiny, 6-seater airplanes. Not riskier in terms of safety, but if weather conditions weren't just right, we might never make it to our destination, and we'd have to turn back without seeing what we'd come to see.

Our group of 14 travelers started to load onto the planes, two of them. Remember, they were 6-seaters - two planes times six seats is twelve, which meant that two people would be left behind, or, they could ride up front, in the co-pilot's seat. Without any forethought on my part, and



Giving Tree for Cory's Project
THANK YOU all for your generous and thoughtful donations to the children on the Children's Hospital

without considering my tendency toward motion sickness, I leapt at the chance when our guide asked, "Who wants to sit next to the pilot?"

"I do! I do!"

And, oh, am I glad I volunteered. My front-seat view was spectacular. As we flew up and through and over the mountains surrounding Queenstown, my head never stopped moving to take everything in. Then, all of a sudden, there wasn't much to see. Blue sky above, and a carpet of clouds below. Thick, dense whiteness, obscuring whatever was underneath. For a big jet flying into Chicago O'Hare, those conditions wouldn't be a problem. But in a teeny tiny plane, flying into a teeny tiny airport... The pilot explained to me that he was flying visually - not with instruments; he could only fly (and land) where he could see to fly (and land).

So we circled. And circled some more. Banking right, banking left. Looking, looking. "For what?" I asked. For a break in the clouds; any little opening that would let the light from above shine down to the ground below, so the pilot could see where he was and bring the plane to the ground safely.

We circled some more. Then, all of a sudden, the pilot shouted - to me and the other passengers, and to the pilot in the plane following him - "There it is!" and he began a steep nosedive through a small hole in the cloud cover.

That slender break was all he needed to make his way.

We are entering the Advent season which, at least in the northern hemisphere, coincides with the shortest days, the longest nights. Lots of darkness, not much light. For some, the lack of light plays havoc with mood and physical health. For some, this time of year can be metaphorically dark, as well: the pressure of holiday preparations, being with challenging family members, facing the reality of an empty seat at the dining table because of a failed relationship or death. Or maybe it's the darkness of being alone when everyone else seems so connected.

With all this darkness, it can be hard to see where we are, where we need to go, where we might land safely.

But, as Christians, we're reminded during Advent that the darkness - as long and pervasive as it may seem - is not permanent. There is light, and more is coming. Not just because of the tilting of the earth's axis that begins to lengthen our short days, but because God made a promise to come among us, to dwell among us, in the person of Jesus and all who follow him; to bring the Light of hope, of peace, of joy, of love to dark and overcast places.

In Advent - and in every season, really - we're meant to be circling, like a small passenger plane over Milford Sound, searching for breaks in the dense cloud cover, openings where God's bright light can shine through, and overcome the darkness. We're meant to call out, like the pilot in the lead plane, "There it is!" and bring everyone else along with us.

From Our Deacon

Linda Lutter



I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God, it changes me. C. S. Lewis

Prayer is such an important part of our lives as lovers of God. Prayer gives us pause to separate ourselves from a crazy day. Prayer makes time in our daily routine to think of others. Prayer gives us the opportunity to touch base with God, perhaps to yell and scream or

of Wisconsin cancer unit. We collected over \$800.00 dollars in gift cards and monetary donations and filled MANY bags with wonderful items for the patients and their families to enjoy!! Thank you for continued prayers and support. If you would like more information about Cory's Project, please see Andrea Lindblad or Sue Whipple



Pie Crust and Pate a Choux Clinic



Thank You... ...for the GREENING!
Thank you! to all who contributed their time and effort to the greening of the church last Sunday, 11/26; everything looks wonderful! Special thanks to the folks who guide us through the process, especially Pat Donegan and the Buildings & Grounds crew, and Betsy Donegan and the Altar Guild volunteers. Many hands go into making our church a place of welcome and beauty.



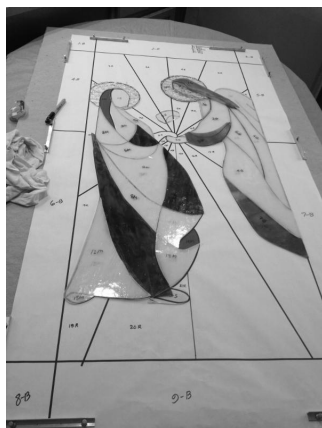
to praise and thank ... whatever the reason the prayer is going to change us ... make us happier, smarter, perhaps more angry or less angry. Prayer is something that you initiate with our Lord for whatever reason you have but the main thing to do with prayer is to keep the conversation going. It should not be "saved" for Sunday but used every day, all day. Did you say or do something wrong, pray for forgiveness and the strength to make it right ... by apologizing. Do you have a nice lunch to eat ... thanking God is a good idea. Hey, did you get a kudos, pat on the back, a promotion? Thank you God ... you do this for your own health and happiness by putting the blame, the kudos, whatever your day brings, where it should be in God's hands and it allows you to put it aside so you do not flaunt or beat yourself up. Prayer is for our relationship with God. Just chit chatting with God, asking for help, asking questions, giving thanks, etc. is like working the muscles of your faith, you get stronger and stronger.

I just thought I would offer up something to you all ... if ever you need someone to pray with you I will be happy to do so. Sometimes you need a prayer partner, especially with some of what is happening around us ... the shootings in churches and mosques, in crowds and schools. I just need someone to prayer with in crazy times and I think others might too! So, please, whenever you feel like you need someone else to pray with give me a call, 847-340-3253.

We have also started a couple more times a month you can come to church and pray. On the FIRST WEDNESDAY there is Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. On the FOURTH FRIDAY there is Morning Prayer at 7:00 am. Both lovely services filled with the words of our Lord and prayers of compassion and joy. Please join us.

Capital Campaign Update

Sneak peek: Annunciation logo window in communication wall



You've probably seen it - the space between the two halves of the new communication wall in the Parish Hall - where hangs an enlarged rendering of our church logo, The Annunciation, showing Mary and Gabriel with hands clasped together as Mary is asked to be the mother of Jesus. It's a wall of "Yes" - not just for Mary, but for us....invitations to participate in PADS or the Cookie Walk or fellowship events; chances to grow our community and to serve the world around us.

Perhaps you've wondered whether that paper enlargement is all that's ever going to be in that middle space?? The answer is "No!"

Eileen Kohler (who, with her husband Mark, were parishioners at Annunciation before moving out of state), a stained and leaded glass artist, is busy working on a glass rendition of our logo, to be installed in early April 2018, just in time for our celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation and episcopal visitation by Bishop Jeff Lee (Sunday, April



8, with one service at 9am and potluck to follow.) Eileen has been chronicling her progress with the project with photos, a couple of which are shown here.

Many thanks to Eileen for sharing her artistry and expertise, and to parishioner Julie Beard, who designed the logo and has worked with Eileen in translating the original graphic into a design that works with the medium of glass.



Capital Improvements Update



Have you ever been sick (think bad flu) or in extreme discomfort (back pain anyone?), and while you were in the midst of it, you had a hard time remembering what it felt like to feel

good, and maybe an equally difficult time imagining life post-recovery? And yet, chances are that once your symptoms subsided, you pretty quickly forgot just how miserable you'd been.

Even if we don't think of ourselves as particularly flexible or adaptable, our bodies and brains are actually busy adapting and recalibrating all the time, figuring out "new normals." Thank goodness! Otherwise, like in the case of being sick, we'd end up carrying around those awful memories of fever and body aches, even after we got better. Sometimes, it's good to forget and move on.

But there's a downside in getting used to a "new normal" so quickly: we can fall into the habit of not appreciating positive changes or forgetting how far we've come.

Take the heating system at Annunciation. About this time, four years ago, the company that serviced our furnaces announced that they would no longer be doing so, as the equipment was too far gone to be fixed. Their only recommendation, short of replacing the whole system, was to have us install carbon monoxide detectors, to help keep us safe. If you went into the women's restroom, the one just off the Parish Hall, you'd find that it could serve as a good meat locker, keeping food fresh and cold. Not visible to most of us, way back when, were all the times that Bill Hagan or Pat Donegan or some other volunteer had to come to the church hours before a service, to coax the furnaces or air conditioning to life, to get the building to the correct temperature (or something close). Like some scene out of a Laura Ingalls Wilder book, of parents getting up in the wee hours of the morning to stoke the fire box, to warm the house before the kids wake up.

Now, we are almost 3 years into our 5 year capital campaign and capital improvements plan (we kicked off the capital fundraising in spring 2015) - a plan we called Warmth and Hospitality for the next 25 years. Since that kickoff, a great many projects have been initiated and completed, and even though it hasn't been all that long, because of our adaptable, recalibrating brains, I'll wager that there are things here in church that you see or experience every day that no longer register as "new" because they've become the "new normal."

- The heat (and air conditioning) just work, and no one has to come at 5am to get the furnaces revved up.
- The kitchen stove just works, without having to light the ovens with a foot-long match, laying on the floor.
- The front doors just work, no longer getting stuck on concrete that heaved in the cold weather.

- The walls of the church and chapel and sacristy and narthex just look good, warm with color instead of stark builder's white.

The list goes on.

And so, because our brains adjust so quickly to a "new normal," the Capital Improvements team comes to you periodically with an update on what projects have been done, what's still in process (look for new lighting and a new sound-absorbing ceiling in the Parish Hall in early 2018), and what is - at least for now - delayed or off the table or out of scope. We want to give you an update about Capital Campaign finances, about expected cash flow over the next two years, and how we're doing in terms of paying off our line of credit (necessitated by the timing of the installation of the heating/air conditioning systems) by 2020. We want to re-tell the stories of how, because of due diligence in evaluating and selecting and overseeing vendors and contractors, along with a whole lot of sweat equity by people like Pat Donegan and Mike Bill and members of the Buildings & Grounds crew, we've completed projects at costs far under what the architects who helped us with design expected. We want to invite you, if you haven't been invited already, to participate in the campaign - or extend your participation - and if enough people are able to do so, then perhaps we can move forward on some projects that are currently beyond our financial reach (i.e. new flooring in the parish hall and narthex, and wood trim in the narthex.)

We want to remind everyone that the underlying, core values that prompted this campaign in the first place - warmth, hospitality, relationship - are still the values that drive every decision the capital improvement team makes.

We want to thank you for your faithfulness and generosity throughout a long, extended process, and acknowledge the YESes that have sustained Annunciation for over 50 years, and acclaim and celebrate your continued YESes that will carry us forward as the warm and hospitable Body of Christ in Gurnee.

See you on Sundays!