

# The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church      Burien, Washington

March 2017

## From Fr. John:

**Why we do what we do in Lent:** Since the earliest days of Christianity, the season of Lent has been closely associated with baptism. Throughout the season, we engage in a number of practices intended to bring us deeply into the rhythm of the forty days as preparation for baptism or the renewal of baptismal vows. On the first day of Lent (March 1<sup>st</sup>, this year), we are marked with a cross of ashes in the same pattern as the cross traced on our foreheads with oil at our baptism. Then on the first Sunday of Lent, we chant the Great Litany, which the first specifically Anglican form of public worship, written by Archbishop Cranmer in 1544. The penitential nature of the litany makes it especially appropriate for Lent as we contemplate the exquisite fragility of our mortal lives that are so utterly reliant on God's unrelenting mercy and love for us.

At the beginning of every Sunday Mass after the first, we hear the Ten Commandments proclaimed and then we ask for God's mercy. We hear Jesus' call to "love the LORD our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength" and to "love one's neighbor as oneself." The intent is to remind us, not in shame but in humility, that we so often forget or refuse to recognize our dependency on God as well as our responsibilities to love our neighbors and ourselves.

Every Sunday, including every Sunday in Lent, is a celebration of the presence of the Risen Christ in creation and in the church, and planted in the heart of every human. For that reason, there is traditionally no fasting on the Sundays of Lent. However, through the weekdays of Lent, we will observe the ancient practice of the Stations of the Cross in place of Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings until Holy Week begins.

Even so, we keep moments of silence during in the Sunday liturgy less as a form of fasting, and more as a form of listening. We practice being present to each other in all our magnificent quirks, not fixing each other or rationalizing our failings away or blaming others for whatever befalls us. In the silence, God is present as we expose all of who we are with sometimes painful honesty to ourselves. And then, once again, we hear the assurance of God's mercy and forgiveness.

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St. Elizabeth Community Outreach continues to support our local Burien women's shelter, Hospitality House. This month in addition to providing meals for the third week of March, we are helping out with supplies. Contributions to Hospitality House for the following items would be greatly appreciated:

<p><b>Basic Needs:</b></p> <p>Paper Towels <b>(Urgent)</b></p> <p>Toilet Paper <b>(Urgent)</b></p> <p>Laundry Detergent</p> <p>Kitchen Garbage Bags <b>(Urgent)</b></p> <p>Heavy Duty Garbage Bags <b>(Urgent)</b></p> <p>Laundry Detergent</p> <p>Disinfectant Wipes</p> <p>Dishwasher Detergent</p> <p>Shower Cleaner</p> <p>Small trash can liners</p> <p>Toilet Bowl Cleaner</p> <p>Floor Cleaner</p> <p>Multi-purpose cleaner</p> <p>Hand Soap <b>(Urgent)</b></p>	<p><b>Miscellaneous Needs:</b></p> <p>Masking Tape</p> <p>Stamps</p> <p>White Out</p> <p>Combination locks <b>(Urgent)</b></p> <p>Pens</p> <p>Plastic Pillow Covers</p> <p>Antacids</p> <p>USBs</p> <p>Antacids</p> <p>Ear Plugs</p> <p>Eye Masks</p> <p>Spiral Notebooks <b>(Urgent)</b></p> <p><b>Food:</b></p> <p>Cheese/Lunch Meat</p>
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The practice merges our desire and consent for transformation with God's loving and empowering energy. We signal our willingness to stay in the wilderness of this live-giving interaction with the One who joins us there by chanting the Trisagion: "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us."

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the River Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. Many Christians take time during Lent to follow Jesus' example by self-reflecting on what it means to be themselves. Here are some questions for contemplation:

If you had time to compose one final, brief message for the people most important to you, what would it be?

Is there anything that you have done in your life that you would like to undo? What are the moments and actions that are happiest for you to remember?

Who still needs to hear from you that they are forgiven or loved? Who still needs to hear you speak your gratitude to them? Who still needs to hear you ask for forgiveness?

If you have doubted that there is a God, have you followed your doubt far enough to doubt that there is *not* a God?

If you had absolutely no fear, what would you do next? If you had all the love that you could possibly take in, what would you do next?

To begin these kinds of self-examinations is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are still only aspiring to become. Ashes may be at the start of it, but Easter is at the end.

## The Elizabethan

*The Elizabethan* is published monthly by St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church. The deadline for articles is the fourth Friday of each month.

Articles, calendar items and ideas may be mailed or emailed to the addresses below or left in *The Elizabethan* box in the Parish Office.

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**Rector:** Father John Forman

**Sr. Warden:** Sue Tierney

**Jr. Warden:** TBD

**Treasurer:** Linda Knutson

**Office Administrator:** Christine Ramirez

Elizabethan Editor: Christine Ramirez

## **This Old House of God....Building Update**

The Parish Hall and kitchen have been listed on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) commercial leasing site. We have had some inquires over the past month. If you know anyone that is interested in leasing the space, please have them contact Tony Hettler.

Neighborhood House continues on their remodeling renovation project. Work on the Zechariah Kitchen is planned to begin March 1<sup>st</sup> and will last four to six weeks.

Alternative arrangements are being made to support hospitality services for our support groups and Sunday coffee hour.

A leaky toilet in the women's bathroom has caused some water damage to the Nursery Room ceiling. The broken toilet is being replaced with an ADA compliant fixture and the drywall issue will be addressed at a later date. Thank you Bob Knutson!

With the snowfall and record rainfall in February, we experienced more flooding issues due to clogged/poor exterior drainage pipe (The roof is good!!). The water penetrated our heating ducts and foundation in the Sanctuary and Fireside room level. Unfortunately the flooding has impacted the Neighborhood House schedule by another week and was cause for concern over their long-term tenancy. The exterior storm drains on the west side of the building have been hydro-pressure cleared and a camera was sent down to investigate the blockage. Meanwhile temporary drainage pipes were installed to get the water away from the building. This temporary solution has stopped the flooding for now. We are proceeding with a permanent building drainage system that will correct damaged pipes and install new drainage pipe that will properly direct our roof and driveway surface water into the city storm basin. This new drain system will add drains where none existed as well as fix blocked or damaged pipes. The vestry approved a Diocesan Investment Fund (DIF) withdrawal of \$20,000 to address the storm drain work. The withdrawal will cover the majority of the cost but additional funding will be needed. Plans for long-term maintenance of the drainage system need to be addressed. Thank you Kirk Utley for your oversight of this project!

Linda Knutson



## ***Readings for Lent***

Reading a book for the 40 days of Lent can be a rewarding spiritual experience. The following titles are displayed on the featured titles shelf of our library and are available for you to check out:

### ***Blessed Is She: Living Lent with Mary* by **Tim Perry****

Weekly reflections are drawn from the Gospel of Luke, focusing on Mary's discipleship. Written by an Anglican and professor of theology, these reflections are based on a series of sermons given in Lent, a season when many Christians do not contemplate Mary's role.

### ***Great Lent: Journey to Pascha* by **Alexander Schmemmann****

For a new point of view, read these reflections on the meaning of "Lent in our life" as seen through the practice of Orthodox spirituality. Fr. Schmemmann was one of the foremost Orthodox Christian theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. You may discover how much Anglican theology and liturgy have in common with the Orthodox!

### ***Holy Island: A Lenten Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne* by **James W. Kennedy****

Daily readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter Monday inspired by the author's own pilgrimage to a tiny, tidal island off the northeast coast of England. Lindisfarne has been central to Celtic, and therefore Anglican, spirituality since the 6<sup>th</sup> c.

### ***Lent with Evelyn Underhill* edited by **G. P. Mellick Belshaw****

Fr. John introduced us to the life and work of this English Anglo-Catholic mystic last year. This selection from her writings will make a great follow-up to that class.

### ***Pilgrim Road: A Benedictine Journey through Lent* by **Albert Holtz O.S.B.****

Inspired by his sabbatical year travels, the author presents 40 reflections followed by excerpts from Scripture and the Rule of St. Benedict. Br. Albert applies ancient monastic wisdom from another of the Anglican Church's deepest roots to the everyday concerns and aspirations of modern Episcopalians.



# *The Elizabethan*

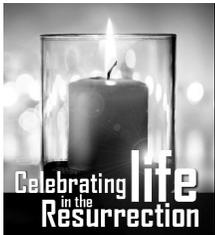
St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Celebrating Life in the Resurrection:** A Workshop on Planning the Celebration of Your Life through Faith, Hope and Love!

Sat. March 25 – Bloedel Hall, Saint Mark's Cathedral, 9:00am-2:30pm

*It is a painful irony that when we are grieving a loved one, we are also called upon to handle so many details. In my experience, a little bit of guidance is a welcome relief. I am always sad when someone tells their family not to "make a fuss" when they die. When you die, take my word for it, there will be a fuss.*" --The Rev. David Marshall, St. Dunstan, Shoreline

Join Bishop Rickel, Dean Steve Thomason, Rev. Marshall and other clergy for pastoral perspectives and practical advice on funerals and memorials. Time for Q&A at round table discussions. All participants receive the Diocese's **Life Planning Manual**. Cost: \$20. Sign up on-line: [www.celebratinglifeintheresurrection.eventbrite.com](http://www.celebratinglifeintheresurrection.eventbrite.com)