

AROUND THE PARISH

Saturday, September 19, 2026

St. Alban's seeks to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community,
committed to sharing Christ's love, empowering people to grow spiritually,
deepening our relationship with Christ and living out our faith in the community and the world.

SUNDAY – September 20

Pentecost 17

9:30am, One Eucharist Services in Sanctuary
Town Hall Meeting to follow service.

No Adult Bible Study this week

2:00-5:00pm, Rental, Church

NOTE: Watch the Sunday service on YouTube either
live or later.

[St. Alban's Episcopal Church Edmonds - YouTube](#)



Fr. Greg Peters

By the time you receive this, you will likely have already attended the Town Hall meeting at church about discerning whether or not to go to one Sunday Worship Service. Now it is time for you to prayerfully join in the discernment process and then cast your vote.

As you know, several months ago the Vestry established a small but widely representative group to research and present the pros and cons of going to one service. That group has done a wonderful job.

I will tell you that the work was not easy. A wide range of views were represented in the group. And frankly several members wondered why we would even consider such a move, why even bring up such a contentious change. But they stuck with the process.

To reiterate, the working group was charged only with presenting the pros and cons, not with making a decision, not even with making a recommendation; just the pros and cons. And believe me, they were all clear about where they stood, but regardless of their own inclinations and options, they have adhered to this charge.

I am extraordinarily proud of them for that, for the work they have done, and especially for working through the process even when it felt contentious. I know that they heard opinions from other congregants. I know that they heard complaints and concerns. I am here to offer compliments!

To the group – Maryellen Young, Debby Wilson, Harvey Smith, Linda Rowen, Dan Mullene, JL Krilevich, and Judy Kistner – I commend you for your diligence, patience, long-suffering, and faithfulness. You have struggled with this issue, but you have prevailed in gathering and presenting the information. Thank you!!

So now, dear reader, the work of discernment is before you. You have been presented with the pros, cons, and options. Please prayerfully consider this information. Please ask where, what, and how the Holy

COMING EVENTS

- 9/19 10:00am-2:00pm, Drive by Food Bank Collection
11:00am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall
- 9/20 **NOTE CHANGE** -- 9:30am, Combined Service
Followed by Town Hall Meeting, Parish Hall
- 9/20 12:30pm, Vestry Meeting, Annex
- 9/26 10:30am-12:00pm, ECW Coffee
- 9/30 5:30pm, Date ballots must be returned to be counted
- 10/1 1:00-3:00pm, Discussion Group, PH
- 10/2 ATP issue with ballot results
- 10/3 12:00-2:00pm, Conflict Mediation Class, PH
- 10/5 10:30am, Altar Guild Meeting
- 10/10 9:00am-noon, LIVE, Annex
10:30am, Men's Circle, Parish Hall
3:00-6:00pm, Game Night, Parish Hall

RECURRING EVENTS

- Mon: 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
7:00pm, AA Meeting, Annex
- Tues: 6:30pm, AA Serenity Seekers, Parish Hall
- Wed: 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube
- Thur: 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
7:00-9:00pm, Rental, Sanctuary
- Fri: 7:00-8:30pm, Rental, Sanctuary/Parish Hall
- Sun: 6:30pm, AA Meeting, Parish Hall

Next ATP Issue: Friday, October 2
Article Deadline: Tuesday noon, September 29

Drive by Food Bank Collection is being held today, Sept 19. This notice is late, but we can all contribute by bringing a couple of non-perishables to our Town Hall Meeting on Sept 20!

Spirit is guiding this congregation to best fulfill our calling, mission, and ministry.

The real issue is not the number of services we hold on any particular Sunday. The real issue is how we best grow as a community, deepening our faith and commitment in the kingdom work of Christ Jesus, providing a welcoming place where others can encounter the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, and proclaiming the good news of God's creative and redemptive love.

Sunday, October 4, the Feast of St. Francis.

Our annual celebration of the life and ministry of Blessed Francis, whose encounter with Christ gave him the insight to see the presence of God in all things and led him to preach to birds, work for peace, love the needy, and rebuild the Church. In commemoration we ask people to bring their pets for a blessing. Bring your pets (live or pictures) and your friends in proclaiming the good news of God's creative and redemptive love.

Prayer for Gratitude

Gracious God, I come before You with a heart filled with gratitude for the blessings You have bestowed upon me. Thank You for the gift of life, for the love of family and friends, and for the countless opportunities that come my way.

Help me to cultivate a spirit of thankfulness in all circumstances, recognizing even the smallest blessings that often go unnoticed. Teach me to appreciate the beauty that surrounds me and to be grateful for every breath I take. I am truly blessed, and for that, I am forever grateful. Amen.



IMPORTANT ONE SERVICE & TOWN HALL MEETING

September 20 – One Service at 9:30am followed by Town Hall Meeting

Following two surveys for parishioners and much discernment and debate by the Discernment Work Group, the time for the final decision is approaching.

On Sunday, September 20, there will be one combined service at 9:30am, followed by a Town

Hall Meeting in the Parish Hall. This will be a time for discussion of pros and cons in reviewing our current two-service structure, answering your questions and receiving parishioners' input. Your attendance is encouraged, and this is your opportunity to be part of the discernment process.

Any changes to our service structure will be determined by votes from all parishioners.

Ballots will be mailed out on September 18 with a return date no later than September 30. They can be returned to church on Sunday, dropped off in Fr. Greg's outside mail slot, delivered to the office or mailed in the return envelope included with your ballot. **If you plan on returning by mail, be sure to allow enough time for postal delivery. Only ballots received by 5:30pm on September 30 will be counted.**



JOIN THE FUN AT THE ECW COFFEE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Be sure to join in the fun and fellowship of our next ECW Coffee on **Saturday, September 26, 10:30am to noon.** Connie Forsberg always does a wonderful job of planning these events for us, and this next one should be a real winner!

Our guest is a return performance by Debbie Dimitrie as she portrays Minnie Pearl (Sarah Cannon). Minnie Pearl is a legend from Grand Ole Opry and TV's Hee Haw. Debbie will share some delightful stories and jokes with us.

Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. Your donations will be appreciated and will help us plan for future guest speakers. Please invite your friends and family to share this fun event!



CORRECTIONS TO SEPT 3 ATP

Chase Lake Volunteer Article – The application steps published were not complete. Please see the following for correct steps to apply to be a volunteer at Chase Lake:

--Go to Edmonds School District website. When you first open the website, click on "Community" at the top. A dropdown bar will appear with "Volunteer" at the bottom, click on "Volunteer."

--You will enter a site with two parts: (1) The Harassment Policy and (2) a background check. Complete these forms.

--You will be notified by mail when you are approved.

Or you can go to the main office at Chase Lake and volunteer or contact me – Bob Chaffee, 206-715-6610. Leave a voicemail if I don't answer.



GAME NIGHT

Do you like to play games? We are planning a St. Alban's "game night" on Saturday, October 10, from 3:00pm – 6:00 pm, in our Parish Hall. This is an informal gathering.

There will be some games available, but feel free to bring one of your favorites too. Also, bring your beverage of choice, and, if you want, a snack to share. Depending on how many come and what games are available, we will decide what to play.

This is a first of possibly more opportunities. This idea started from the Hanson's recent auction item when 8 of us gathered for games and had a great time.

Any questions, call Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461, or maryelleny@comcast.net.

Pictures taken from 8:00am Welcome Back Breakfast on September 13 by JL Krilevich.



REFLECTION FOR THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

The Season of Creation invites us to see the world not as a resource to be consumed, but as a sacred gift entrusted to our care. From the beginning, God's generosity overflowed in creation: light and darkness, seas and dry land, birds and fish, creatures of every kind, and finally humanity, blessed to live in harmony with it all. The first chapter of Genesis resounds with God's refrain: "It is good."

The spiritual Plenty Good Room proclaims the same truth. There is space for every creature in God's design, and the table of creation is wide enough to welcome all. Yet we confess that too often, we have lived as if creation is scarce and fragile only because of our own misuse. Pollution, climate change, and exploitation reveal the consequences of a mindset of scarcity – taking without giving, grasping without gratitude.

The Season of Creation calls us back to the truth of abundance. In the great economy of God, there is enough: enough food, enough clean water, enough beauty, enough shelter, if we steward these gifts wisely and share them justly. Creation is not a closed system of competition, but a community of interdependence, where every part plays its role and thrives in balance.

As stewards, we are called to generosity not just with our money, but with our choices: the way we consume, the way we share, the way we advocate for justice for the earth and its peoples. Every gift we return to God – whether planting a tree, reducing waste, investing in clean energy, or pledging financial support for the mission of the Church – is a testimony that we believe there is plenty good room in God’s kingdom for all creation to flourish.

The Season of Creation is a chance to remember that stewardship is not just about sustaining the church, but about sustaining the world that God so loves.

Together, may we proclaim with our words, our lives, and our gifts that creation is good, abundant, and holy.

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it”— Psalm 24:1 

Question for Reflection:

What is your role and responsibility in stewarding the Earth for future generations?

J. Davey Gerhard is the Executive Director of TENS and believes in God’s all-inclusive invitation to find Love when we are gathered together. He lives, works, and worships in San Francisco, California.

Pictures from September 12 Chinese Art Show which was brought to St. Alban’s by parishioner Shen Warner. It was sponsored by International Charity Artists Association and included works of art, informational speeches and refreshments.

See more information in the article from MyEdmondsNews which is attached to the email for this Around the Parish.



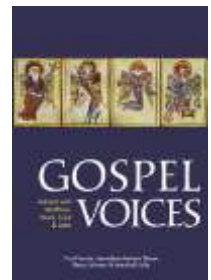
Photos from JL Krilevich and Maryellen Young

ADVENT DEVOTION: GOSPEL VOICES

Thanks to the Rita Bennett bequest, we can once again offer a devotion for Advent.

Enter into the sacred rhythm of Advent through the voices of the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each week offers a deep exploration of one gospel writer’s perspective on the coming of Christ, weaving together scripture, reflection, prayer, and action. The structure encourages a holistic Advent spirituality—waiting, watching, repenting, and rejoicing—guided by Jesus’s disciples and friends. It includes questions for individual reflection and small group study.

If you would like a copy, please respond by October 4th. You can contact the church office, 425-778-0371; stalbansedmonds@gmail.com or Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461; maryelleny@comcast.com.





SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together.

The Feast of the Holy Cross (September 14)

Ever present God, whose Son our Savior was lifted high upon the cross that he might renew all Creation through himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our restoration, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him on his way to bring new life to all things; through Jesus the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle (September 21)

We thank you, merciful God, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Good News of your Son; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Savior to follow him for the healing of all Creation; through Jesus the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Our dear friend Shirley Clark gets a daily dose of the great outdoors from her window of her adult residence home. She shared the above photo with us, keeps in touch through Vestry, Wednesday Evening Prayer and Sunday services online and visits from parishioners.

ST. ALBAN'S FAUNA & FOLIAGE

In keeping with the Season of Creation and in honor of St. Francis' loving care of creation, please take photos of animals and plants on St. Alban's campus. Some will be selected for a lively ATP photo journal before the Feast of St. Francis (Sunday, October 4). All plants and critters great and small will be appreciated.

Send images to jeannie.stablansedmonds@gmail.com.

We will accept photos until September 27.



BASKET DONATIONS FOR 3rd QUARTER

1st week—Food Banks for Edmonds, Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace Food Banks.

2nd week—Discretionary Fund to help people who contact the church for assistance with gas cards, utility bills, rent and other emergency aid requests.

3rd week—Pathways for Women YWCA Pathways for Women provides shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing for single mothers and children.

4th Week—World Central Kitchen (WCK) is first to the frontlines, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises.

5th week—Indigenous Women: WomenSpirit Coalition. Our next 5th week is November 29th.

Donations can be made at any time by placing your donation in an envelope and designating category for your donation.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 20 – PENTECOST 17

“...are you envious because I am generous?” Do we spend more time lamenting our personal scarcity than being grateful and thankful for all we have been given and responding accordingly? It is certainly true that we can't begin to “out-give” God, but would our lives perhaps be more contented and feel more blessed if we decided to be first-fruits or “I can't wait to give” donors to the life and ministry to which God has called all of us? Remember, Baptism tells us we are “marked as Christ's own forever.” How do you respond to that gift?

SEPTEMBER 27 – PENTECOST 18

There's another vineyard parable which is also reflected in a favorite hymn, "Come Labor On" (Hymnal #541). Stanza 2 says in part: "*Come labor on...no arm so weak but may do service here. By feeblest agents may our God fulfill his righteous will.*" There's plenty of work and support needed. All of us are called. And the hymn ends with the promise of a wonderful commendation "... and a glad sound comes with the setting sun; Servants, well done." Isn't that what we all hope to hear?

OCTOBER 4 – PENTECOST 19

And then there are the unfaithful and murderous tenants in the vineyard. Jesus's parable says in part that the vineyard will be given to new tenants who will produce a good harvest and be loyal to God, the landowner. Christ, rejected by the hierarchy, is the new cornerstone, and both the early Christians (and those of us who call ourselves Christians today) are called to be the new tenants and faithful servants. What are you doing in your life to be a good and faithful servant? How do you live and serve God and those around you?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SEPTEMBER 20 – PENTECOST 17

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-1

Collect for Pentecost 17

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever.

SEPTEMBER 27 – PENTECOST 18

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-8
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Collect for Pentecost 18

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your

grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

OCTOBER 4 – PENTECOST 19

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-14
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Collect for Pentecost 19

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday	2:00 – 4:00 pm
Wednesday	2:00 - 4:00pm
Friday	2:00 – 4:00pm

Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or stalbansedmonds@gmail.com to make an appointment. In case of something urgent or an emergency, please call Greg Peters on his cellphone at (206) 778-1506.

GREG'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Church Office 10:00am – 3:00pm
Wednesday, Church Office 10:00am – 3:00pm
Thursday Home 10:00am – 2:00pm
(Available by appointment)

Via email: gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com
Cell: 206-778-1506

SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm
(Available by appointment)

