

Clergy Corner: Sharing a Holy Meal

It will be a while before we actually gather together. As is noted elsewhere in this issue, we are working toward when and how that can happen. But it will be a while before we can actually gather together.

In this time of social distancing and online church, one of the things many people tell me they miss most is communion. I think this is both communion with other people—sharing the praise of God together in community—and the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

This got me to thinking about our holy meal. It is, of course, a symbol of our unity with God in Christ, and also with one another—the whole communion of saints throughout time and space. When we share the bread and wine we are offered a glimpse of kairos time—God’s time. We are blessed to be with each other, with all the people of God, and in God’s presence. When we approach the altar in this way, it is truly a holy meal.

The gift of this meal exists for us in the symbolic acts...

bread taken, blessed, broken and shared

and also in the physical aspects of feeding us...

food that is necessary for life

It is food for both the life of the spirit and the life of the flesh.



We continue to eat, of course, in this time of apartness. Quick meals of sustenance. Hearty meals flavored with time and love. Family meals shared with our small circle of closest associates. Perhaps we can see in these moments that all our meals are meals of grace. Meals that come from the abundance of God. Blessings that we are given.

Our sacramental Eucharist may have to wait. But these holy meals continue. I hope that in each and every meal you give thanks (that’s the meaning of “eucharist” you know!) and welcome the presence of Christ at your table. It’s communion.

Here’s a brief prayer for these meals of communion.

*Be present, be present, O Jesus,
as you were present with your disciples,
and be known to us in this holy meal.*

Our Summer Calendar

At the moment we are keeping things as is, that is, maintaining community through livestreaming all services and meeting for Sunday morning coffee via Zoom calls, as well as telephone, text and snail mail. Please find your way to participate—and to reach out to others in our community—community is so important!

St. Michael's Children's Center is open under strict guidelines set by the CDC and Los Angeles County Health Department. Aside from the school, NO in-person events will be held at St. Michael's until further notice.

Sunday-Thursday Schedule



Sunday, 9am	Zoom coffee hour
Sunday, 10am	Morning Prayer/Ante-Communion
Monday, 8am	Morning devotions
Tuesday, 12 noon	Noonday prayer
Wednesday, 5pm	Vespers prayers
Thursday, 8pm	Compline

Be well and God bless!



Ryley Albers

Two of our scholarship recipients
Senior warden, Florine Guy, and vestry member, Melissa Albers, presented Ryley and Madison their scholarship checks.



Madison Albers



Voices from the Vestry



A few weeks ago I got a call from a former St. Michael's Children's Center student's mom. She was wondering if I could meet with a group of high school graduates that all attended the nursery school together. Of course my answer was YES!

The school opened in 2001, so there have been many students who have since graduated high school — some who have even graduated college! This is the first group who wanted to meet with their St. Michael's classmates for a "senior" picture. The moms were able to locate eight of the eleven students who attended the red room that year. Ms. Denise, the students, many of the parents and I met on the lawn at the school. It was great getting to see each other after all these years. Unfortunately two of the boys were unable to come. We had three boys and three girls. My granddaughter Maddie was one of the students. We took pictures and talked. We checked in where all the kids were going to college and chatted with the parents. We even had old pictures of the kids. What a special time!



Before we opened the school in 2001, Mike Bergeron, Randy Albers and I worked very hard to get everything set up and ready. There were lots of steps to go through to make this happen. I remember praying a lot during this time. I would be the Director of this school when it opened and a lot of its success or failure would be my responsibility. I was talking to one of our priests one day and I told him of my fears. I told him I felt like I was standing on the edge of a cliff and afraid I would fall. I will always remember his wise words to me. He said, "Melissa, you have to jump. You know God is going to be waiting to catch you." Truer words have never been spoken. God is with us during good times and bad. He is our cheerleader and our comforter. Knowing that God is always there to catch me makes my life better. I am so blessed.

Well the school is now in its 19th year. They have a wonderful director and staff and a huge waiting list. I guess we did something good. St. Michael's Children's Center has been a huge blessing to the community, this church and me. I am grateful.

Melissa Albers

God, we trust that you are good and do good.
Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of
global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of
our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life
for the sake of love. Glorify his name as you equip
us with everything needed for doing your will.

Amen.



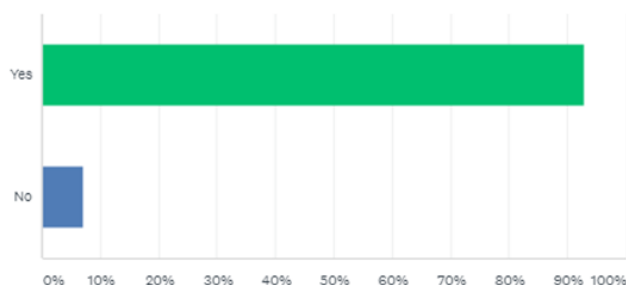
Your voice counts!



We used the Survey Monkey© app to ask a few questions about how you think we should make plans to return to church. Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey. The results helped your Vestry decide how we can begin to plan for in-person worship.

Are you willing to attend church in person if we meet on the grass between our church and school?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



Here are our current thoughts. As of publication (July 1), the Vestry is making plans for resuming worship (at some time in the future—no date yet) using outdoor space.

We are beginning to make plans for using the parking area south of the school building for outdoor, in-person worship once a month. This space is larger than our grass and also provides firmer footing for chairs and walking. This in-person service will also be livestreamed online for those who do not want to or are unable to attend in person. Services for the other Sundays will continue to be livestreamed on our Facebook page.

This seems to make sense for our desire to come back in person, as well as our needs for safe distancing. It also takes into consideration the volunteer work that outdoor setup will require. We suspect doing this once a month will be challenge enough. And we hope that those who are able to join us will assist in set up and clean up. Thanks!

We'll keep you posted as to when this outdoor service will commence. 'Til then, "see" you at our livestreamed services!



C.A.S.E. NEEDS

Items can be dropped off at
305 Richmond Street
El Segundo



Cereals	Sugar
Ketchup	Mayonnaise
Cooking oil	Flour
Bottles of juice	Oatmeal (boxes and packets)
Disinfecting wipes	Dish soap
Laundry detergent	Toothpaste
Cleaning supplies (for surfaces, disinfecting)	



Tuesday Meditation Service ~ July 14th



Our **Candlelight & Meditation** service for July is scheduled for Tuesday the 14th at 7:30pm. Our theme for this month calls us to the recreation of summer...

"Resting in God."

This service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page. So, plan to tune in!

Children's Center News

The Children's Center has re-opened with three small groups of children. We are excited to be able to welcome the children back to school. We are exceeding CDC and Public Health guidelines with socially distanced play areas. The summer will be filled with talks of the Ocean as the children will be learning about ocean animals and the beach.

Please continue to pray for us as we will be operating under very different circumstances. We are grateful for your continued support and prayers.

Lauren



FAMILY PROMISE

Exciting news! These 3 families have found homes!

Family #1 Alex

Family #2 Skylor, Kortnie and Bentley

Family #3 Marchquese and Italy

We are currently serving 4 families

Family #1 Jonatan (dad), Tiffany (mother), Aallyah (daughter, 4), Ethan (son, 3)

Family #2 Folashade (mom), Folake (12), Olunwabusayo (10), & Olunwatobi (7)

Family #3 Miriam and her kids are back with us (Christopher, Diego, Genisis, Sebastian, Sofia, Alexa)

Family #4 We welcome a new family Ching, Mika, William, and Faith

Our 2020 Host Weeks

Third quarter: October 4 - 10

Fourth quarter: December 6 - 12

Our 2021 Host Weeks – Please save these dates

First quarter: February 28 – March 6

Second quarter: June 6 – 12

Third quarter: October 10 - 16

Fourth quarter: December 12 – 18



350 x \$50 x 12 = \$210,000

Our yearly budget depends on about \$210,000 from individual donors. Because we are not sure of the future of the fundraising events we have depended on in the past, we are looking for our donors to commit to monthly giving so we can continue to grow. If we get 350 individual donors to committed to giving \$50 a month (less than \$2 a day!) we will meet our individual goal! Please consider signing up to be a monthly donor and share with your friends and family. We understand that many of us cannot do this right now. Please give what you can as any amount will be greatly appreciated. We are living in a very strange time that none of us has experienced before.

All nonprofits you care about will need financial support to get through this crisis and continue their important work. If you are in a financial position to do so, please give.

I miss all of you very much! I hope you are well and staying safe.

With love,

Jeanie Powell

cheeriochewer@gmail.com

310-462-9904

September newsletter articles are due August 28th.
Please send articles to melissaasings@gmail.com

An Interlude

An obituary in *The Episcopal News* caught my eye. Did I know that man? Yes, it turns out I did. I hadn't seen him in many years but I remembered meeting Bill Thompson when he was the rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Long Beach. And as I read, I was delighted by his description of playing the mandolin.

*My mandolin brings me to God.
Mandolin is hard, frustrating, angering, nerve-racking,
fun, easy, simple, complex, painful, transcendent, concrete, abstract,
worldly, heavenly, and countless other adjectives.
It always, however, brings me joy,
because in playing, practicing, and listening
I touch the creativity and personality of God.
I am somehow being faithful to what God called me to be.*
The Rev. Bill Thompson

I think spirituality surprises us sometimes. It is not necessarily in prayer or in church that we feel closest to God. Perhaps it is when we are doing what we most truly enjoy, what we seem meant to do, what touches our hearts as well as our minds. Bill Thompson found delight and God in playing his mandolin. Where do you see the tracery of God in your life?

[Take a moment to listen](#) to a world class mandolin version of Vivaldi's Concerto in C Major.



Birthday Blessings

July

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 3 Jacob Samia, Dave Van Pelt, Valerie Wallace | |
| 6 Alex Brill, Jane Okon | 8 Melissa McCaverty |
| 12 Ciaran Oley | 20 Kristin Van Heuven |
| 24 Evan Chuck | |

August

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 13 Gerri Pisciotta | 14 Sylvia Hickey |
| 17 Judith Wilson | 25 Sam Nilsson |
| 26 Elvin Lowe | 31 Kelsey Van Pelt |





THE GUARDIAN

St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church El Segundo

Parish Office: 310-322-2589
Web site: www.stmichaels-elsegundo.org
Email: StMichaelsElSegundo@gmail.com

St. Michael's Children's Center

Ms. Lauren Cherrington
School Office: 310-322-7522

Worship Schedule

Sunday 8:00am Rite I Said Service
Sunday 10:00am Rite II
with Music and Childcare
Sunday School: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays

The Reverend Dina Ferguson, D. Min.
Rector

Mission Statement for St. Michael's Church

*Growing in God's Love.
Working in God's Spirit.*

July/August 2020

St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church
361 Richmond Street
El Segundo, CA 90245

TO: