

# CONNECTIONS

All Saints Episcopal Church Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 21

UPDATES FROM SHINGAL



## THE DESERT BLOOMS AGAIN: THE WORK OF REGENERATE SHINGAL

Join us for an afternoon of connection and conversation as we welcome Sr. Makrina Finlay, a Benedictine nun, scholar, and international activist. Sr. Makrina will share stories and insights from her work with the Ezidi people, an indigenous religious minority rebuilding their communities in the wake of genocide by ISIS. You will have an opportunity to support Regenerate Shingal financially. **An assortment of Middle Eastern appetizers will be served!**

See more details about Sr. Makrina's visit on Page 7.



**SR. MAKRINA FINLAY, OSB, PHD**  
Scholar, Activist,  
& Director of Regenerate Shingal

## Welcome to All Saints

Masks are welcome but not required during the service. The service will continue to be available at 10:30am at [allsaintsnorthfield.org](http://allsaintsnorthfield.org)

### CONTACTS & OFFICE HOURS

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Office hours;

Email for an appointment

The Church Office is open  
Monday through Thursday  
9:30 until 12noon  
Staffed by volunteers

All Saints Episcopal Church is a  
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## From the Rector: Help Shape the Future of Preaching



Dear saints of God in Northfield,

I'm glad to share that our parish has been invited to take part in a nationwide project with Luther Seminary in St. Paul. The aim of this initiative is to enhance how we understand and experience sermons in our rapidly evolving world. The COVID-19 pandemic seems to be a sociological line in the sand, marking significant changes in the landscapes of faith and communication. Luther Seminary, together with an ecumenical cadre of preacher-practitioners, are asking the crucial question: what truly makes a sermon compelling and impactful in the 21st century?

This is where your voice becomes invaluable! We're reaching out to you to help shape the future of preaching. What resonates with you in a sermon? What transformative power do you seek in these messages? Your insights are at the heart of this innovative research which is being supported by a more than one million dollar grant from the Lilly Foundation.

I had the chance to be part of a retreat with other clergy and lay leaders in August and will return for another in December. In the meantime, groups around the country are meeting to study, pray, and share about what we're discovering. What unites us is this: we are listening together for the God who compels us, the God who calls us to deeper life, courage, and hope.

Here's how you can be part of it:

- 1) Each week, listen as you always do to the sermon here at All Saints.
- 2) Afterward, take a few minutes to fill out a short, anonymous survey using the QR code in the bulletin or this link: [https://luthersem.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6fiwTYzxUpJ2SHA](https://luthersem.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6fiwTYzxUpJ2SHA)
- 3) You can also sign up for a follow-up survey if you'd like to go a little deeper.

This is not about critiquing individual preachers. Your responses will be anonymous and gathered with thousands of others from across the country to help researchers understand what makes preaching come alive in our time. What resonates? What compels us to act, to change, to trust God more fully?

By taking part, you'll not only be helping shape the future of preaching—you'll also be reflecting more deeply on your own experience of scripture and worship. Together, we are being drawn by the God who compels us: the God whose living word still has the power to move hearts and change lives.

I hope you'll join in. Your perspective is a gift to this project, to the wider church, and to our own community as we continue to seek God's compelling word together.

As ever, please do be in touch if there are ways I can be supportive of you or your loved ones during this season.

Fondly yours,  
Fr. Cody



## RALLY SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14



### PANCAKE BRUNCH FUNDRAISER SUPPORTING OUR ALL SAINTS ACOLYTES



Rally Sunday Pancake Brunch Fundraiser for the Acolyte Pilgrimage to the National Acolyte Festival! On Sunday, September 14 following the service, the acolytes (with some adult help!) will cook and serve you pancakes, sausage and fruit, as well as juice, coffee and tea. This is your opportunity to show your support for our All Saints young people who will be participating in the festival at the National Cathedral on October 11<sup>th</sup>! If you are unable to attend the brunch, you are still welcome to show your support with a donation; checks may be made out to All Saints with "acolytes" on the memo line. Thank you!

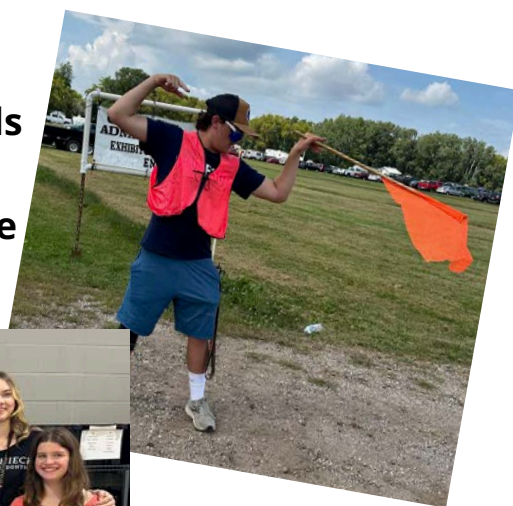
### WE WELCOME BACK THE CHOIR AFTER SUMMER BREAK!!

Also on Rally Sunday, we welcome the return of the choir! One of our former Choral Scholars, Ben Quist is our new Music Director. Ben is a junior at St. Olaf and is excited to lead our choir! We also extend a warm welcome to Agnes Barthel, a St. Olaf sophomore, as our student organist while Faiz is studying abroad this fall.





**ALL SAINTS ACOLYTES work hard to raise funds for their pilgrimage to Washington, DC and the National Cathedral!**



The All Saints acolytes have been busy this summer raising funds for the pilgrimage to the National Acolyte Festival in Washington D.C. on October 11. In last month's newsletter, we highlighted the lemonade stand that they held during Crazy Days. In August, they bagged groceries at Cub Foods one Saturday and directed parking another weekend at the Dundas Steam Engine Show.

Of course, the fundraiser at All Saints is the Pancake Brunch on September 14 which you can read about on page 3.

The final fundraiser is in collaboration with the Northfield location of Jersey Mike's Subs! All you have to do is tell them that you are supporting the All Saints youth when you order and pay for your meal on Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5 and the kids will receive 50% of the sales!

**The key is:** To ensure that the sales are counted towards the fundraising goal, please inform your supporters to mention the fundraiser to the cashier at checkout. For online orders, and app orders please use the promo code located at the bottom of the flyer (JMGIVES). Please note that it is important to mention the fundraiser upon checkout, as donations will not be accounted for otherwise.

## Welcome to our 2025-2026 Seminarian!

Paul Johnson, our 2025-2026 Seminarian joined us for his first Sunday on September 7! Paul was supported by his family who attended the service and enjoyed coffee hour with the All Saints community. Welcome, Paul!



## September

- Sept 6 DJJD Open House
- Sept. 7 Seminarian Paul Johnson first Sunday
- Sept 9 Outreach meeting
- Sept 14 Rally Sunday  
Pancake Brunch Fundraiser for Acolytes
- Sept. 17 Vestry meeting
- Sept 21 Sister Makrina visit
- Sept. 26 Campus Ministry Chocolate Fest & Cookout
- Sept. 28 Pet Blessing

**A Message from The Right Reverend Craig Loya**  
**Choosing to Follow Jesus**  
**September 4, 2025**



Beloved in Christ,

One of my many irritating qualities is that I can be very slow to make a decision. In smaller and larger choices, I can spend so much time considering all the pros and cons, that I get stuck in the fact that every option looks equally good, and every option looks equally bad. The fact is every decision is a trade off, every choice bears a cost. My slowness to make a decision is often just a matter of not wanting to pay its cost.

Our scripture lessons for this Sunday invite us to make a clear choice, and to count its cost. In our reading from Deuteronomy, as the people of God prepare to enter God's promised land at long last, Moses speaks on behalf of God: "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors." And in our gospel lesson, Jesus reminds us that following him requires that we take up our cross, and be willing to give up all that we have.

Jesus is always in the business of subverting the violent and oppressive world order, where people look out for themselves, and see life as a matter of gaining all I can, with the power of love, which looks out first for others, and is willing to give it all away.

Following the way of Jesus then, draws a line, and presents us with a clear choice. We can choose the way of God's life and love, or we can choose the way of the current world order, which makes peace with children being shot in school, that looks the other way when immigrants are dehumanized and scapegoated, where the economic order devours the vulnerable to feed unchecked greed.

Making this choice, as individuals and as congregations, will make us appear strange, it will cause conflict and division. It might cost us members and friendships. But making this choice grounds our lives squarely in God's project to heal the whole world with love.

Following the way of Jesus does not work as a side hobby, one more activity we stack alongside already overly full lives. Following Jesus demands that we place God at the center of everything we do and everything we are. It's a choice that will cost us everything, but through which we finally find the liberation and healing our souls so desperately thirst for.

Are you ready, and are we ready as a church, in a world of mimetic violence, to take up our cross, to choose life, choose love, choose joy, choose liberation, choose healing? Are we ready to choose Jesus above all else, losing our lives in order to be fully and finally found by the God who calls us each by name?

Grace and Peace,  
The Right Reverend Craig Loya  
Bishop X  
Episcopal Church in Minnesota


 COMMUNITY OUTREACH


## Sister Makrina returns to All Saints!

Sister Makrina will be joining us on Sunday, September 21st. As many of you may remember she has visited us twice and we continue to work with her in support of the Izidi people in the middle east. We look forward to hearing about the latest news happening in the Sinjar region. She will be present at the Adult Forum as well as during coffee hour. Sister Makrina will be available for 1 on 1 conversations during this time.

Later on Sunday, 3:00 to 5:00, we will host a community event with Sister Makrina in the Commons where she will present a short video and again be available for conversations. This is a come and go event open to the community. If you have questions, please ask an Outreach member. Hope to see you on the 21st!

Outreach Committee,

Mary Jones\* Bob Craig\* Rachael Zoller\* Pam Middleton\* Marshall Hanson\* Rhonda Rowe\* Fr. Cody

## UTO

### United Thank Offering

#### Just what is the United Thank Offering?

The year was 1883 when a group of women took up a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican communion that a church budget could not cover. Today UTO's focus remains the same: the practice of gratitude and giving support.

How is this accomplished? Every year local parishes engage in a monthlong campaign of offering gratitude by depositing a coin in a little blue box. Every penny collected goes toward supporting projects that address compelling needs around the globe by way of giving grants to organizations that have applied. In 2025, UTO gave out \$1,079,748.37 to recipients.

The US is divided into 9 provinces (All Saints is in Province VI) with each one sending a representative to sit on the UTO Board which reviews the grant proposals. The maximum of a grant is \$55,000 unless there is extreme need, in which case it could be as high as \$100,000. This year there were 43 applicants, 27 of which were funded. There were 3 historical grants (that's a whole other story), 12 to the Anglican Communion (all of which were water related) and 12 to Episcopal Church organizations. So how does UTO provide materials for churches free of charge? The women founders committed to have the work continue after they were gone, started giving trust funds to the organization which practice has continued by others over the last 142 years.

During the campaign, drop a coin in the blue box in gratitude for something good in your life, but know that giving thanks does not stop at the end of the campaign! For those interested for more in depth practice, we will have materials available in October. Accept the UTO Invitation to a Holy Autumn!

## San Jose Obrero Mission Sunday, August 31!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with our San Jose Obrero Mission Outreach effort this year! It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon to share a meal and fellowship with the seasonal workers in Montgomery!



## An Opportunity to Learn about Communion Bread Hosted by Fr. James

I invite you to a communion bread event on from 9:00 to Noon on Saturday, 25 October. The morning will start with some background on the history of breads used in the Holy Eucharist from the earliest days of the Church. This part will be based on project I did as a student in the D. Min. program for Marian Hatchett, a priest and professor of liturgics at Sewanee Seminary, more years ago than I care to contemplate! In my research I came across a few surprises which I'll share with you.

Next, I'll have a few different kinds of communion bread for you to sample. Then will come the fun part! We'll bake some communion bread from several different recipes. This is open to experienced bread bakers and newbies alike. In the meantime, I will do some research on an accessible gluten free recipe for us to try as well. I'll circulate a sign-up list starting in October so that I know how much I'll need in the way of supplies. Please contact me with any questions. I am looking forward to this!



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*Save the date*

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|---------------|---|
| October 4     | Creative Collective                               |
| October 5     | United Thank Offering (UTO) Kick-off              |
| October 10-12 | Acolyte Festival at Washington National Cathedral |
| October 26    | Children's Sabbath Sunday, UTO Ingathering        |

## Episco-Speak

### A Guide to the Language of Episcopalians

You say you don't know your ciborium from your paten? Well, don't despair! Help is here. Each month your rector will attempt to dazzle you with his command of the vocabulary of Anglicans and Episcopalians. If there is some term or concept about which you want to learn more, I will also take requests. Please contact me!!

#### **This month: Confession of Sin**

I had planned to write about some basic terms of church architecture, but I was asked a question over the summer that I want to take up first. I was asked by this individual about the confession of sin, more specifically why do we do it during some parts of the church year and not others. Additionally, I was asked about hearing private confession in the Episcopal Church: why, when and who should be doing it?

I know that you're likely on pins and needles awaiting a treatise on church architecture. Never fear, I will get to it in a few months so that I can answer a few questions that have been asked by some of you here at All Saints. I'm all a twitter – actual reader questions!

But first, I want to establish a context for discussion confession of sin. What is sin after all? Yes, we really do talk about sin in the Episcopal Church. My best working definition is one that I learned in seminary and have never forgotten. Sin, according to the theologian Sallie McFague, is a refusal of love – a refusal of God's Love and a refusal to love the beloved of the Creator. To my mind, that pretty much ticks all the boxes when thinking about what sin actually is. The reality is that we all do it, being human after all. So, when we have hurt another person by that very refusal of love, we need to do something about it.

That brings us to the Confession of Sin found on p. 365 of the Book of Common Prayer. We pray this as a community of faith nearly every Sunday because we can all think of those instances when we have indeed sinned. It is important to clear our hearts and consciences, having been forgiven of those sins by the priest before we approach the Table to receive the Sacrament. Here I want to make something clear. No priest pronounces the forgiveness of sins on their own. It is only by virtue of ordination that they pronounce the absolution of sins that God, and God alone confers on us. This act is known as one of the five sacramental rites of the Episcopal Church. The two Great Sacraments are Baptism and the Holy Eucharist which Christ gave to the Church.

Now here is an interesting exception to the expectation of praying the general confession every Sunday. The rubrics state on p. 359 of the BCP, that "On occasion, the Confession may be omitted." The rubrics are what I like to call the stage directions of the liturgy. In Latin, rubrics are red letters, which they once were in prayer books but that's rather expensive, so now italics connote the rubrics. The two most common occasions for omitting the confession in the liturgy would be the seasons of Christmas and Easter. Christmas is a joyous season in which we celebrate God's Word of Love incarnate. And, of course, Easter is the greatest of our seasons in which we celebrate the power of God's love that takes away our fears of sin and death. The significance of Easter is so great that not only do we omit the confession, but in the early Church, bishops forbade the practice of kneeling during the fifty days.

Episco-Speak continued:

There is one other aspect to an exploration of the topic of confession and that is the sacramental rite of The Reconciliation of a Penitent, or in the vernacular private confession. Some might react to this, saying, "Isn't that a Catholic practice?" The short answer is no. Here is where it gets rather interesting. Among Protestant faith traditions our Episcopal and Anglican heritage is unique. In the English Reformation, elements of Roman Catholic traditions were retained along with those of the reforming tradition in Europe. Thus, for example, our faith heritage recognizes – depending on who you talk to – either the traditional seven sacraments, (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Reconciliation of a Penitent, Anointing of the Sick, and Ordination) or two major sacraments, i.e. Baptism and Eucharist, with 5 sacramental rites.

Either way, our tradition takes the Reconciliation of a Penitent very seriously. The rite is found on pp. 446 – 452 in the BCP. I am going to add the rubrics titled "Concerning the Rite" on p. 446. It's important enough for me to add it here rather than try to paraphrase it and possibly not express it correctly – or should I say not get it "rite"?

### Concerning the Rite

**The ministry of reconciliation, which has been committed by Christ to his Church, is exercised through the care each Christian has for others, through the common prayer of Christians assembled for public worship, and through the priesthood of the church and its ministers declaring absolution.**

**The Reconciliation of a Penitent is available for all who desire it. It is not restricted to times of sickness. Confessions may be heard anytime and anywhere.**

**Two equivalent forms of service are provided here to meet the needs of penitents. The absolution in these services may be pronounced only by a bishop or priest. Another Christian may be asked to hear a confession, but it must be made clear to the penitent that absolution will not be pronounced; instead, a declaration of forgiveness is provided.**

**When a confession is heard in a church building, the confessor may sit inside the altar rails or in a place set aside to give greater privacy, and the penitent kneels nearby. If preferred, the confessor and penitent may sit face to face for a spiritual conference leading to absolution or a declaration of forgiveness.**

**When the penitent has confessed all serious sins troubling the conscience and has given evidence of due contrition, the priest gives such counsel and encouragement as are needed and pronounces the absolution. Before giving absolution, the priest may assign to the penitent a psalm, prayer, or hymn to be said, or something to be done, as a sign of penitence and act of thanksgiving.**

**The content of a confession is not normally a matter of subsequent discussion. The secrecy of a confession is morally absolute for the confessor, and must under no circumstances be broken.**

Who should do this? I think that your own conscience will tell you when the time is fitting. I don't often hear confession myself these days but I did more so before my retirement. Since retirement, I have occasionally heard confession in the course of my spiritual direction practice. If you have any questions at all about this, either I or Fr. Cody would gladly tell you more about it.

After this weighty topic, we'll turn to something a bit more fun next month, I assure you!

Next Month: Flowers in Church: Why? When? What kind?  
Stay tuned for another thrilling installment of Episco-Speak!

**All Saints Vestry and Committee Chairs**

SR. WARDEN	Rhonda Rowe
JR. WARDEN	Laura Kay Allen
CO-TREASURER	Pam Middleton
CLERK	Mark Krug
AT LARGE	Betsy Brandt
AT LARGE	Dick Brown
AT LARGE	Bob Craig
AT LARGE	Joe Peterson
AT LARGE	Laura Porter-Jones
AT LARGE	Rachel Zoller
STUDENT REP	Tara Alaniz
RECTOR	The Rev. Cody Maynus
DEACON	The Rev. Cassandra Cook-Quarry
ECMN DELEGATES	Rachel Zoller Laura Porter-Jones
ORGANIST	Agnes Barthel
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Quist
MINISTRY ASSISTANT	Luke Poley Agnes Barthel Ned Whipple
SEXTON	Jason Schwartz
SUNDAY SCHOOL/ YOUTH GROUP	Pam Middleton Zibby Allen Jack Gronholz Alek Pochan
ALTAR GUILD	Bonnie Sherman
CANTERBURY	Mark Heiman Betsy Brandt
CONNECTIONS	Pam Middleton Jayne Cook-Quarry
OUTREACH	Mary Jones
HOSPITALITY	Pam Middleton
OPERATIONS	Betsy Brandt
WEBSITE DESIGN	Mark Heiman

7	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 P Philemon 1:1-21 Luke 14:25-33 Psalm 1	<b>September Readings</b>
14	Exodus 32:7-14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10 Psalm 51:1-10	
21	Amos 8:4-7 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13 Psalm 113	
28	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31 Psalm 146	

**BIRTHDAYS**

September	3	Gail Halverson
	7	Glenn Olson
	8	David McKee
	10	Jayne Cook-Quarry
	11	Leslie Will
	12	Robert Allen
	12	Dave McGuire
	13	Jackson Landon
	18	Rhonda Rowe
	22	Lynn Naeckel
	30	H.B. (Skip) Edmonds
	30	Joan Ennis



**ANNIVERSARIES**

September	3	Tom & Elizabeth Campbell
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