

# St. George's Episcopal Church, Milford

Aug 28, 2025: EBlast



## Beyond Thoughts and Prayers: Responding Faithfully to Gun Violence

By The Rev. Canon Anna E. Rossi, the Diocese of California, September 28, 2023

*The University of Texas Tower, Columbine, Sandy Hook Elementary, UN Plaza, Mission Street, or a family's home. When did the shooting start? And when will it end?*

*At the same time The United States faces an epidemic of gun violence, civilian ownership of military-grade weapons has risen to numbers never seen before. This love affair with guns, sometimes cloaked in Christian language or endorsed by Christian institutions, is an affront to the love of Jesus, and the love of neighbor to which every Christian is called.*

*The ubiquity of guns leads to more deaths. And each tragic and preventable death is met with a litany of thoughts and prayers. While well-intended and even sincere, these thoughts and prayers alone will not heal the scourge of gun violence. They are not enough.*

*Relentless and sometimes sensationalist media coverage of mass shootings also obscures the [fact](#) that most incidents of gun violence — 99% of all shootings — include fewer than 4 people. The multiplicity of these shootings adds up.*

*This sort of gun violence most commonly happens between people who know each other and who escalate tensions from an argument to a deadly result. But this also means that individuals have extraordinary power to reduce or end violence in their communities. Healing is possible through prayerful action, through sensible legislative reform, through moral leadership and courage.*

*The stakes continue to climb higher, and so voices of courage need to be stronger in the public sphere, for the common good. The Episcopal Church has consistently taken [positions to limit and heal from gun violence](#), with General Convention resolutions dating to 1976.*

And yet the violence continues.

My heart is broken that this week was marked not just with the beginning of the school year for many students around the country but also once again with horrific violence. This time with young students gunned down not just during school, but in church while attending mass. And this was sadly only one of many shootings that occurred around the country in the last week.

And so we pray for victims, families and even perpetrators, but we are also called to do more. I am proud that a dedicated group of St George's members joined others from around the state of the End Gun Violence Michigan lobby day in the spring. I hope our members will continue to stay engaged with our legislators on these important issues.

One more thing we can all do for ourselves and our community. Last year Michigan enacted important safe storage laws that require individuals to keep unattended weapons unloaded and locked with a locking device or stored in a locked box or container if it is reasonably known that a minor is likely to be present on the premises. And this is good practice even if there are not children in your home. If you own guns, are they safely stored, what about your family members, your friends, your neighbors. Gun locks are cheap to buy, available free from multiple sources and truly save lives.

See you Sunday, Rev. Michelle

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Sunday August 31

8:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I Celebrant: Rev. Michelle  
in the Church

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II Celebrant: Rev. Michelle  
In the church & livestreamed

### Wednesday Sept 3

1:00pm - Crochet for a Cause

### Tuesday Sept 9

11:00am - ECW Meeting

### Friday Sept 12

LOK Outing - Dakota Inn Rathskeller evening - men welcome!

### Wednesday Sept 17

1:00pm Crochet for a Cause

7:00pm Men's Group Meeting

### Thursday Sept 18

11:00am - Outreach Meeting

### Wednesday Sept 24

7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting

## LOK Outing to Dakota Inn Rathskeller Friday Sept 12

We had so much fun last year, we are going back for round 2! Everyone is welcome to join us for a night or food, fun and music. More details coming soon, check with Joyce or on the Facebook page to RSVP and if you are willing to drive/want to carpool.

## College for Congregational Development Teach-Out Event: Sat Sept 13

From Invitation to Incorporation: Strengthening Our Gathering Practices

Saturday, September 13th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Christ Church, Dearborn

How can we invite, greet, orient, and incorporate people more intentionally in all that we do, from Sunday worship to small groups and fellowship events?

Join clergy and lay leaders from across our Episcopal and Lutheran communities for a College for Congregational Development (CCD) Teach-Out focused on the Gather stage of the Gather-Transform-Send model.

Explore how to create welcoming experiences

Learn practical strategies

Walk away with a model to shape every kind of gathering

Refreshments provided | FREE to attend

Get registered at [www.edomi.org/ccdteachout](http://www.edomi.org/ccdteachout)

## FedUp Thank-you

Thank you to all who participated in the collection of items and funds for FedUp last Sunday and for making Pastor Anna feel so welcome. A good time was had by all and she raised \$566. We will continue to look for ways that St George's can partner with this groundbreaking ministry,

## LOK Outing to Holocaust Center

Thanks to all who joined us for the very moving survivor talk and guided tour of the Holocaust center. It is never easy to hear these stories but it is so important to never forget or repeat these tragedies. We had almost 20 people gathered from St George's and friends. Thank-you to Joyce, Sandy and those who helped organize us.



## Join the Altar Guild

We have had some change over (both people joining and stepping away) on the Altar Guild and we need some more assistance. Being a member of the Altar Guild at St George's is more than just setting the Lord's table... One Saturday a month we meet our partner (for 30-45 min) and begin to connect with the Holy Spirit in a unique and quiet way. It can be meaningful and purposeful to assist with laying the linens, setting up eucharist elements, placing the vases out for the flowers, ensuring the Gospel is marked for our reading, and filling the candles with oil.



Other various occasions bring some additional tasks but these are often tied with worship. Altar Guild Members also set the altar for funerals, weddings, and baptisms.

All is in the Lord's Service, a gift of our time for the glory of God and for our neighbors. We are currently Caroline L., Felicia I., Megan T. Lisa D. and Nancy P. with Barb B assisting as she can. Come and talk with us after a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

You might be inspired to learn more about this deeply special ministry and want to join us. Many hands make the Lord's work light and no burden.

## Ongoing Outreach Activities

Below is a list of things we are currently collecting for our ongoing outreach ministries. Check back often to see what we are up to

**Winter & Warm Outdoor Clothing** - Crossroads Soup Kitchen - Far back of Hallway - through Oct 17

**Dress and other nice clothing** - Grace Centers of Hope Resale Shop - Middle of Hallway - through Nov

**Small Toiletries** - FedUp - Hallway Closest to Office - Ongoing

**Non-perishable food** - Grace Centers of Hope - Bin in Narthex - Ongoing

**Used Grocery Bags** - Bins outside by The Dragon - Ongoing

## Ongoing Ministries in Action:

### -Braver Angels

Monthly meetings are normally held on the last Tuesday of the month working on depolarization. All are welcome. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm, skills practice at 7:00, and planning at 7:30, finishing at 8:00 pm. **NOTE: Next Meeting is on Tuesday, Sept 30**

### -Coffee Fellowship

**A Sign-up sheet is now available to host coffee fellowship during September.** This valuable ministry allows us to have a lovely time of food and fellowship together after church and **it won't happen without hosts.** It is quite a simple endeavor requiring only 2-3 items like, pastries, fruit/veggies and/or crackers & cheese and a commitment to help set up and clean-up. Unused food is taken home or given away after. You can do it on your own or with a partner. Please see Mary Lou J. and Joyce S. for more information.

## **-Crochet for a Cause**

Making mats for those in need out of plastic grocery bags. 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. We have a great time! **Next Meetings are September 3 & 17.**

## **- Cookie Ministry \*Supporting the AA groups that meet at our church**

Who can help on the **third Friday of each month?** About 50 cookies are needed in total. Please reach out to Dot if you would like to cover **15 August** (third Friday.) or once in a while to give the Darcys and the Vangels a break on the other Fridays. You can drop off your cookies the Sunday before or during office hours during the week

## **-ECW (Episcopal Church Women)**

ECW will continue to meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. The **next Meeting is Tuesday September 9 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.**

St. George's ECW is a small group of women committed to supporting the many activities of this church. All women members of the church are members of ECW and are encouraged to attend the meetings. Do come along and join us.

## **-‘Purls of Wisdom’ Knitting/Crochet for Charity**

Currently, this group is not meeting. An update will be published should the situation change.

## **-Healing Prayer**

Provides laying on of hands and anointing for healing after worship at 8:30 & during communion at 10:15 service. The next Healing Prayers will be on **Sept 7 & 21**. Healing Prayer can be offered at all other services by request.

## **- LOK - Ladies of the Knight**

### **Tentative Calendar of Events**

September 12 - Friday: Dakota Inn Rathskeller evening - men welcome!

October 11- Saturday at 3:00pm: Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea. Tickets \$52.50 to be paid no later than August 10 to Becky Sheridan (Chair)

November 13, Thursday at 11:00am: Pewabic Pottery, Tour & Tile making. Register with Debbie Lesnew by Oct 26

December 13, Saturday at 2:00pm: Annual Christmas Party at Joyce Spletzer's home.

Extemporaneous: Tuesday movies at Emagine.

## **- Mens' Group**

The Men's Group normally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. All Men are invited to attend.

The **next meeting** is on **Wednesday September 17 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

Please see Mike F. Sr's upcoming email for more information.

## **Keeping Your Faith Strong**

### **-Those in Our Prayers**

Please pray for our members, community members and friends in search of health, healing, wholeness and solace: *Anne G., Annie F., Art, Ashley, Barry, Brett & Megan, Brian, Carol R., Caroline, Cheryl, Chuck, David, Denise, Dennis, Fred K. & family, Helen, Janice, Jeanne F, Joan B, John, Judi V, Kathy, Katie M, Karen S., Kim, Laurie, Lisa D., Lisa S., Liz, Mark, Nancy, Mary Lou, Rick & Debbie, Rick, Sandy & Carol K., Sharon A., Sue H.,*

Loving God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: accept our prayers, and to those who seek healing, grant the power of your grace, that the weak may be strengthened, sickness

turned to health, the dying made whole, and sorrow turned into joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.* (Book of Occasional Services pg217)

### **- Online Daily Office Schedule**

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Fridays, 4 p.m. Evening Prayer

Sundays, 7 p.m. Compline

Do you join our Sunday worship online? A reliable and quick way to find our YouTube services (live or recorded) is from our website's "Watch" page, accessed from the top of the home page by clicking the word "Watch." [Here's a direct link.](#) Want to participate in our Daily Office online? Those are on Facebook. [Here's the link.](#)

### **-Sermon Blog**

Ever hear something in worship and think, I wish I could look at that again or send it to a friend? Well now you can. Now St George's has a Sermon Blog. Weekly sermons and reflections will be posted here from now on. Rev. Michelle's sermons will appear on Sunday morning, Morning Prayer reflections will usually be up within a couple of days. Feel free to share! [St George's Sermon Blog](#)

### **-When to contact the Priest:**

Please be in touch. I can only pray, help or connect you with resources if I know what is happening. Examples of when to contact the Priest: Birth, Death, Illness, Hospitalization, Difficulty in the Family, You would like to receive sacraments or a Pastoral visit, You have an idea or ministry you would like to discuss. I am usually in the office Wed and either Tues or Thurs 9:30-3. If you see my car in the lot, feel free to pop in. If I don't answer the phone make sure to leave a message or send a text and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

How to contact Rev. Michelle: **Phone/Text:** (734) 646-4064 or **Email:** [priest@stgmilford.com](mailto:priest@stgmilford.com)

### **-Forward Day by Day Devotions**

The Aug - October Booklets are available to pick up in the Narthex. Let us know if you need one mailed/delivered to your house. The cost is \$2.00 for each booklet. Please reimburse us as you are able in the donation box nearby. I recommend a read! 🐝

**SAINT GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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