



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to Others

Sunday, September 13, 2026

The Second Sunday in the Season of Creation

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

~ Everyone is WELCOME here, for everyone is beloved by GOD ~

The Season of Creation is an international and ecumenical celebration of the goodness of God's work in nature, as we commit to being better stewards of it. The theme for 2026 is "Living Waters," and we will remember the tremendous importance of clean water – in the right amounts – for life on our planet. Each week our lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures and our Psalm will reflect the day's emphasis on the blessing of water. Today, they lament the cost of heat and drought upon all creation; climate change is not only a modern problem.

Are you new to our church? We'd love to get better acquainted. Please leave your name and email or phone number in one of our guestbooks, located at both entrances of the worship space; or by filling out one of the Welcome cards in the pew.

All persons who desire to receive Holy Communion are served here, no questions asked. We offer homemade Bread and gluten-free Rice Wafers, which may be dipped into the small bowl of wine; or, consume your bread and sip wine from the chalice that follows. Or neither: just cross your arms over your chest. You may also ask a blessing from the priest.

Hymn # These hymns are located in the blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew.

WLP # These hymns are located in the green hymnal books that will be handed out.

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude and Music Review _____

Opening Hymn #408 _____ *Sing praise to God who reigns above*

Opening Acclamation _____ for the Season

Presider: Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit;

Response: **And blessed be God's Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Presider: Loving God, you created the world as a beautiful garden, and asked us to tend and care for it. Our hearts are fully known to you, and we cannot hide our failings. As we lament and pray for the earth, its creatures, and ourselves, cleanse our thoughts and open our spirit to your Holy Spirit, so that we can bless and praise you without shame or fear; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Song of Praise _____ For Beauty of Meadows



1 For beau - ty of mead - ows, for gran - deur of trees, for
2 As stew - ards of beau - ty re - ceived at your hand, as
3 Teach us once a - gain to be gar - d'ners in peace; all



flow - ers of wood - lands, for crea - tures of seas, for
crea - tures who hear your most ur - gent com - mand, we
na - ture a - round us is ours but on lease; your



all you cre - at - ed and gave us to share, we
turn from our waste - ful de - struc - tion of life, con -
name we would hal - low in all that we do, ful -



praise you, Cre - a - tor, ex - tol - ling your care.
fess - ing our fail - ures, con - fess - ing our strife.
fil - ling our call - ing, cre - at - ing with you.

Collect of the Day _____

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray, together.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

Please be seated.

The First Reading _____ *Joel 1:1-2,10-20*

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

The word of the Lord that came to Joel son of Pethuel:

Hear this, O elders; give ear, all inhabitants of the land! Has such a thing happened in your day, or in the days of your ancestors? Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation. The fields are devastated, the ground mourns, for the grain is destroyed, the wine dries up, the oil fails. Be dismayed, you farmers; wail, you vinedressers, over the wheat and the barley, for the crops of the field are ruined. The vine withers; the fig tree droops. Pomegranate, palm, and apple — all the trees of the field are dried up; surely, joy withers away among the people. Put on sackcloth and lament, you priests; wail, you ministers of the altar. Come, pass the night in sackcloth, you ministers of my God! Grain offering and drink offering are withheld from the house of your God. Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord. Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes. Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God? The seed shrivels under the clods; the storehouses are desolate; the granaries are ruined because the grain has withered. How the animals groan! The herds of cattle wander about because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep are perishing.

To you, O Lord, I cry, for fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flames have burned all the trees of the field. Even the wild animals cry to you because the watercourses are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm _____ *Psalm 42:1-7*

- 1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks, * so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"
- 4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, * among those who keep holy-day.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 Put your trust in God; * for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

The Second Reading _____ *Romans 14:1-12*

Reader A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn CoCS #137 _____ *Touch the earth lightly*
Sung to the tune of "Morning has broken"

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster-
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

The Gospel Reading *Please stand as able* _____ **Matthew 18:21-35**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
Response **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon *Please be seated* _____ *The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams*

Please remain in silence for a moment of reflection following the sermon.

The Nicene Creed *Please stand* _____

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People: Season of Creation _____ *Please stand or kneel*

Deacon In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. The water that
God called into being is at the heart of all that lives. Mindful of the many
ways water affects our lives, let us pray for our waters and for the life of the
world around us. *Silence*

Leader

I ask your prayers for all people of faith, and for the transformations in their lives that
are marked by the sacredness of water: at the Red Sea, in the
Jordan River, in ritual baths, in the washing of feet, and in Holy Baptism. *Silence.*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the leaders of nations, corporations, and communities around
the world, that they may exercise wise stewardship over the waters of their land, so
that all people may have clean water to drink and may live free from waterborne
diseases. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the wisdom to shape creative solutions to conflicts over water in
the dry places of our planet, and for justice and peace in desert lands. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for all the waters of the earth: for oceans and seas, for rivers and streams, for lakes and ponds, for watersheds, marshes, and swamps, for the waters beneath the ground; and for all creatures that live in the waters of the earth. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for all who travel or work at sea or on inland waterways. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for all afflicted with too much water in flood or tsunami, storm or ice; and for the people and creatures who suffer as glaciers and ice floes melt and shrink. *Silence.*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the creatures and the human beings of your world who are endangered, ill, in pain or special need; especially those we name ..., and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources, or from the devastation by war. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for all who have died and for all who mourn, that their tears of grief may be turned to wellsprings of joy. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Loving God, Creator of all, we thank you for the beauty of Creation; show us, we pray, how to respect the fragile balance of life. Guide by your wisdom those who have power to care for or to destroy the environment, that by the decisions we make, life may be cherished and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin, *please stand or kneel* _____

Deacon In order to find healing and peace for the Earth, let us confess the ways we have erred and strayed from God's good intentions. *Silent prayer*
God of all mercy:

All **God of compassion, have mercy upon us.**

Heal our relationship with all creation.
Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect
of the creatures who share the earth with us.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent
for what we have done to harm them,
and for what we have not done to help them.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may care for one another and for all creatures,
according to your will and in the fullness of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Absolution *is pronounced by the priest* _____

Presider Almighty God, have mercy upon you and forgive you; heal your heart and guide your mind; and enable you to live in peace with all God's creatures and the Earth our common home. **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand* _____

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Milestones and Announcements _____

Blessing of Backpacks and Briefcases _____ *Students and teachers, please come forward*

Holy and gracious God, we give you thanks for students and teachers, friends and colleagues, as the new school year begins. We give thanks for the ways they will teach us and help to expand our universe. Be with them, and help all of us to learn and grow, more and more into the likeness of Jesus who shows us your way of love. **Amen.**

May God bless you and keep you as you learn, grow, and explore the world around you; and may you continue to bless the world with the gifts God has given you: love, kindness, curiosity, and joy. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Offertory, following an invitation to generosity from the priest

If you wish to give online, point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right and tap the webpage that pops up. It will take you to the St. Jude's online giving form.



Offertory Anthem _____ *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

The Doxology Please stand & join in singing _____ *“Old 100th”*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Supplemental Eucharistic Prayer for Creation _____

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

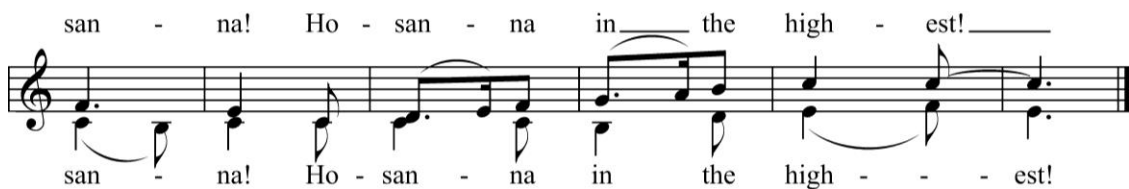
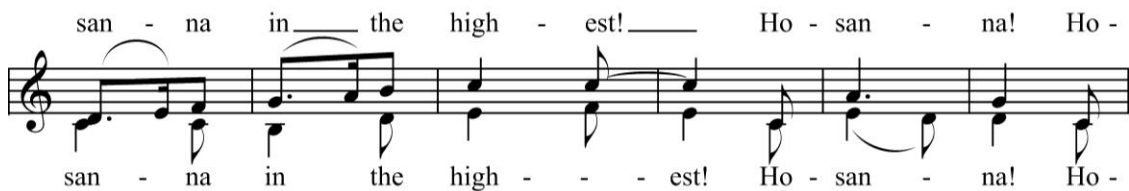
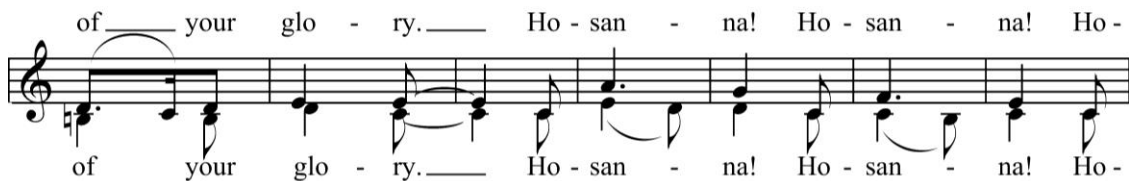
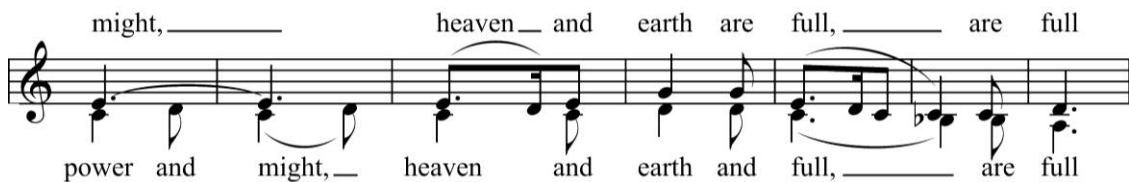
The Presider continues

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life. Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus _____ *setting by John Bell*

Music is on the next page



In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries, heal and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine, the sacraments of a community made new in Jesus Christ.

Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive. Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is released from its bondage to sin and sanctified by love, and you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior taught us, we now pray:

Holy One, our only Home, hallowed be your name.

May your day dawn, your will be done, here as in heaven.

Feed us today, and forgive us as we forgive each other.

Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil.

For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread, *silence follows* _____

Fraction Anthem _____ *setting by John Bell*

Music is on the next page

This is the Bod-y of Christ, bro-ken that we may be
 whole; this cup, as prom-ised by God, true to his word,
 cra-dles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.

Invitation to Communion

Deacon These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

The Communion

Please be seated until invited by the Ushers to come forward, or let them know if you would like Communion brought to you in the pew. **All are welcome** but no one is obliged to receive. If you would prefer not to receive Communion, please cross your arms across your chest indicating you would like to receive a blessing instead. Today we are blessing gluten-free bread. The wine may be sipped from the chalice, or wait to intinct (dip your bread) into the small bowl of blessed wine. Please do not intinct into the chalice.

Communion Music

Anthem _____ Come to the Water

Hymn #649 _____ O Jesus, joy of loving hearts

Prayer after Communion *Please stand as able* _____ EOW1

Priest Let us pray.

People God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing _____ *Anglican Communion Resources*

May God, who brought water from the rock, refresh your spirit. **Amen.**

May Christ, who calls us from empty promises to faithful action, strengthen your resolve. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit flow through you like a life-giving river, bringing hope, healing, and renewal to every community and every corner of creation. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Sending Out

Sending Out Hymn #690 _____ *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*

Sending Out _____

Deacon Go now into a thirsty world. Protect the springs, restore the rivers.
Treasure every drop.

Speak for communities whose voices are unheard.

Stand with those who thirst for justice as well as water.

May your lives proclaim that water is sacred, creation is God's gift, and faithful discipleship is measured not only by what we believe but by how we care for the sources of life. Go forth to love and serve, in peace.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude -----

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- Song of Praise: *For Beauty of Meadows* from *Community of Christ Sings* (#142), Welsh Melody; adapt. *Caniadau y Cyssegr* © 1971 Walter Farquharson.
- *Touch the earth lightly* from *Community of Christ Sings* (#137), Words: Shirley Errena Murray © 1992 Hope Publishing Company.
- *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* from *Community of Christ Sings* (#215), Words: Rosamond E. Herklots, Supplement to the *Kentucky Harmony* © 1967 Oxford University Press.
- *Sanctus* by John Bell © 1988 WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc.
- *Fraction: This is the body of Christ* by John Bell © 1998 WGRG / *The Iona Community*
- *Come to the Water*, John Foley, S.J. Glory & Praise Series. OCP.

<u>Serving at the Liturgy Today</u>		<u>Next Sunday</u>
Presiding	Rev. Susan Williams	Rev. Susan Anslow Williams
Deacon	Rev. Judy Marinco	Rev. Judy Marinco
Organist	Ron Spaulding	Ron Spaulding
Choir Director	Katie Young	Katie Young
Eucharistic Minister	Lynn Hopper	Clay Putnam
Intinction Cup	??	Amy Freeman
Reader	Dave Rayner	Nancy Day
Prayers	Denise Rayner	Dolores Ruby
Ushers	Charlie J., Jessica M.	Lisa & Kelly Cronk
Live-streamer	Dave Rayner	Lynn Hopper
Vestry P. of the Day	Dave James	Mark Jagos
Altar Guild	Sarah D., Lisa Cronk	Mary Louise S., Diane Hill
Coffee Hour	Heather Ludwig	Diane & Doug Hill

This Week at St. Jude’s

- Tuesday, 9/15 1 pm: Prayer Shawl Ministry in library
- Wednesday, 9/16 6 pm: Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary
- 7 pm: Vestry Meeting in Vandenberg
- Thursday, 9/17 6 pm: Book Club @ Francine Johnston’s

NEXT SUNDAY is Sock Sunday! Bring \$5, \$10, \$20 or more to purchase socks for us to donate to Crossover Ministries in Flint. \$10 buys a dozen pairs of socks! These socks go to keep people's feet warm, especially homeless adults who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford them.

Inquirers Class - Learn more about being an Episcopalian

Our first in-person session will be on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 7 pm, at the church. In advance of the class please read the intro and first four chapters (pages 7-64) in *Jesus was an Episcopalian (and you can be one too)*. It's a quick, enjoyable read.

Transition Team

Rev. Susan is looking for three more members to assist on the Transition Team! We've got Dave R and while he has the energy of several people, more heads and hands will be needed for the important work of preparing St Jude's to discern and search for a priest. If you would like to be considered, send an email to Susan including your favorite Bible passage or verse, and an experience or insight that leads you to offer your time for this work.

The **candidates for the first Bishop for the Diocese of the Great Lakes** have been announced. On **Friday, September 25**, there will be a couple of opportunities for a meet and greet with the candidates. One at **St. Paul's in downtown Flint from 3 - 4:30 pm** and another on **Zoom 7 - 8:30 pm**. Pre-registration is required. To find out more about all of the meet and greet opportunities, go to greatlakesepiscopal.org/bishop-search/candidates/

The Alzheimer's Association of Michigan will return to downtown Fenton this fall, providing two sessions of information and support for carers of people living with dementia.

- **Saturday, September 26 at 10:30 a.m. - Understanding Alzheimer's-related Behaviors**, how to respond appropriately, and recognizing when additional help is needed.

- **Saturday, October 10 at 10:30 a.m. - Communicating Effectively** with family, friends and health care professionals, as your loved one's communication skills change.

Persons living with dementia are welcome to join their caregiver at the class. To register for either/both of the classes, please call the Alzheimer's Association at its 24/7 helpline, 800-272-3900.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
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