

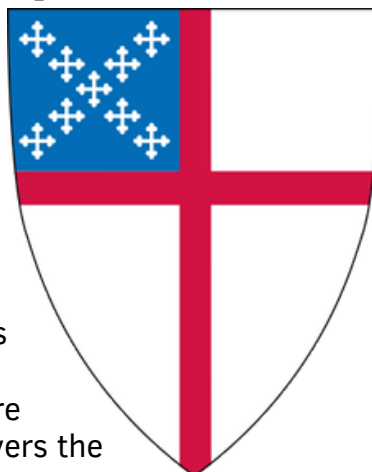


The Beacon

August 2026

I love being an Episcopal! Or is it an Episcopalian?*

Who are we, what's our backstory, and what do I tell my friends about why I love what I've found at St. Jude's?



If you have questions like these, maybe you'd like to attend "Inquirer's Class" this fall! The end result is Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church (more on that option later). Inquirer's Class covers the basics like:

- Why do we worship with a "Book of Common Prayer," and how common is it?
- Why do we tell stories about Henry VIII, his wives and his kids?
- Why don't we treat the Bible the same way as Southern Baptists?
- How we can welcome LGBTQ+ people when other churches won't?
- Who might be our next bishop and how will we elect one?
- What ministries am I discerning a call to try?

Our "textbook" will be the lighthearted guide "Jesus Was an Episcopalian" (And you can be one, too!)" (2008) written by my friend, the Rev. Chris Yaw – formerly of Battle Creek and now based in Southfield, MI. You'll enjoy reading it, even if some of his "contemporary" references are now 20 years old... and Chris definitely would have included the 2018 British royal wedding, where our Presiding Bishop was the preacher!

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. ELIZABETH STREET
FENTON, MI 48430

(810) 629-5681
STJUDESFENTON.COM

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAYS - THURSDAYS
9 AM - NOON

STJUDESCHURCHFENTON106@GMAIL.COM

...continued on next page...

August Birthdays

1st Bill Freeman
4th Pedro Melchor
5th Dave Little
16th Matt Freeman
Dolores Ruby
25th Marilyn Safa
Katie Young

August Anniversaries

6th Harry & Linda
Chciuk (55th)
15th Mike & Judy
Marinco (56th)
18th Craig & Gay
Adams (53rd)
Lynn & Kathy
Hopper (48th)
22nd Jerry & Francine
Rucker (62nd)

"I love being Episcopalian" continued...

We envision holding four discussion sessions, assigning chapters and videos in-between. The times we meet will depend on the schedules of the participants, so if you are interested, please click on the link to [THIS FORM](#). Class discussions will be team-led by Rev's Susan, Judy and Mary Jo. And if you're interested in being confirmed or received as an official Episcopalian, that service will be held the afternoon of November 22 in Saginaw.

Looking forward to sharing the Episcopal story with you,

Susan+

*PS: "Episcopal" is an adjective and "Episcopalian" is a person!

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you! **800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention



Life Line Health Screenings Return

Volunteers Needed

Life Line Screening is coming to use our hall for their health screenings **Monday, August 24th**. We need people who can come in that day and be "building sitters". There is a sign up on the bulletin board in Vandenberg Hall.



St. Jude's Staff

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STEVE & LAURA KOCH
SEXTONS

Michigan Made Products Themed Gift Basket for Family Promise Fundraiser

St. Jude's Outreach committee would like to provide a "Michigan Made Products" themed basket for the auction at the Charity Golf Tournament being held on Friday, August 21st. Please donate a Michigan Made Product by **Sunday August 9th**. Place your item in the black tub in Vandenberg Hall. All proceeds from the auction of the basket will benefit Family Promise of Mid-Michigan which helps families who are facing homelessness and housing crisis. Any questions contact Diane Putnam 810 938-5307.

OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
GREAT LAKES

Candidates for our First Diocesan Bishop are announced

On July 22, the Diocese of the Great Lakes' Bishop Search Committee announced their finalists: priests Terri Lynne Bays, Zachary Nyein and Holly Rankin Zaher. None of them live in Michigan, but you can [click here to read about them](#) and watch their videos. They will be traveling around the diocese during the week of Sept. 20, attending "Meet and Greet" sessions for live interaction (more specifics are TBA).

Additional bishop candidates may be nominated by petition, with a deadline of August 5 at 11:59 pm. There is a [lengthy description of that process here](#), designed to ensure that all candidates are qualified to be considered, and will be ready to participate in the rest of the selection process. Diocesan Convention delegates and canonically qualified clergy will elect our first bishop, on October 24 in Muskegon. (The convention and voting will be livestreamed.)

We are asked to pray:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift and source of all wisdom, look with favor upon your Church in the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes as we seek the bishop you are calling to shepherd and to lead us: Grant to your people faith to discern, courage to choose, and unity to follow in the way of your Son; that guided by your Holy Spirit, all of our prayers may rise up to you, and we may continue to proclaim the Gospel and serve the world in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

An Update on our Security Enhancements

Thank you to everyone who participated in the discussion held after worship on June 7, where we got your feedback on plans to upgrade the security of our building. Since then, several members of the Vestry, Rev. Susan, and a few others have sought advice from the wider community. We paid visits to neighboring churches to learn what steps they've taken. Members of the Fenton Police and Fire Departments met with us to tour the building, consider the proposals (thumbs up!) and make additional recommendations. We appreciate all the ideas provided, as we move forward with purchasing and installing equipment, reducing surveillance targets (like easy views into the basement), and trimming bushy hiding places. If you notice problem areas that need attention, please let us know.

Faithfully on guard,
- Your Vestry

New Office Hours

Our administrative assistant, Liz, has taken a second part time job. Beginning Monday, August 10, she will only be in the office a couple of afternoons/evenings a week. Volunteers will be manning the office during the day.

As such, beginning Monday, August 10, office hours will change:

Monday - Thursday
9 am - Noon

If you are interested in becoming an office volunteer on a specific day once or twice a month, please let Liz know.

New! Monthly Service at Abbey Park

Beginning on Thursday, August 6, Rev. Susan will provide a monthly service of Holy Communion at Abbey Park in Grand Blanc (where Rex and Judi Harris live). Non-residents are welcome to join us at 2 pm in the chapel! Abbey Park Senior Living center is located at 3221 E. Baldwin Rd, close to Henry Ford - Genesys (formerly Ascension).

If you've been looking for a weekday alternative to Sunday morning, perhaps this will work for you – visitors are welcome. The dates for these Thursday afternoon services appear on [our online calendar](#); here's the list for the rest of 2026:

August 6
September 10
October 1
November 5
December 3



Reflections

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", July 15th edition

Always Giving Thanks

Be very careful, then, how you live . . . always giving thanks to God.

Ephesians 5:15, 20



A fifty-ton, female humpback whale swam into a web of crab lines off the coast of California, trapping her in a tangled mess. Hundreds of feet of line and hundreds of pounds of traps wrapped around her body as she struggled to stay afloat. Four divers came to her rescue, swimming under her belly. For an hour, they cut rope—dangerous work since one flap of her tail could have killed them. After they freed her, rather than immediately escaping, she swam to and gently nudged each diver. "It felt to me like she was thanking us," one rescuer said.

Whether or not whales are able to express gratitude, being thankful is truly an important part of being human. It's vital for our life with God. Many of us thank Him for larger blessings (the birth of a child or healing from a disease).

However, Paul tells us to offer gratitude for every gift we receive, for every bit of goodness we encounter. We're to be "always giving thanks to God," the apostle writes (Ephesians 5:20). Not sometimes. Not only for exceptional moments. Always. And to make sure he's made his point, Paul adds a bit more. "[Make] the most of every opportunity" and give thanks "for everything," he says (vv. 16, 20).

Genuine gratitude is more than an occasional word we offer; it's the posture of our lives. Gratitude turns us to God over and over again, always giving thanks in celebration.

- By Winn Collier

Reflect & Pray

What gifts can you thank God for today? How can you move toward a posture of gratitude?

Dear God, please help me to live a life of gratitude to You.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, 8/6

2 pm: Service @ Abby Park

Wednesday, 8/12

6 pm: Outreach Meeting

Saturday, 8/15

10:30 am: Alzheimer's Seminar Part III

Wednesday, 8/19

7 pm: Vestry

Thursday, 8/20

6 pm: Book Club @ Dee Grossmann's

Monday, 8/24

8 am - 5 pm: Life Line Screenings

Monday, 8/31

6:30 pm: CROP Meeting

Saturday, 9/5

9 am - Noon: Basic Needs

Stamps Needed

Lynne Ronthi continues to volunteer her time and talents ensuring that everyone gets a card for special occasions from St. Jude's and to let members know that we are thinking about them and praying for them. She relies heavily on the donations of cards and stamps from members (there is a basket on the table outside the office). With the rising cost of stamps, we could really use some more. **If you are able to donate any stamps to the card ministry**, it would be greatly appreciated!

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St. Jude's Episcopal Church

VESTRY

2027

Doug Hill

Dave James

2028

Charles Johnston

Sue Premo

Megan Rosa-Norred

2029

Mark Jagos

Diane Putnam

Denise Rayner

Dolores Ruby

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Mark Jagos, Charles Johnston

Alternates: Katie Young, Amy Freeman

