

Children & Youth

Children's Church will be offered as an option to our EpiscoKids during BOTH Sunday Services **beginning this Sunday, August 8.**

Children's Church is a short liturgy open to all children but with programming geared towards ages 3-8 (older children may join as "helpers" if they wish) that includes songs, a children's take on one of the lectionary stories of the day, creative movement and time with friends. This offering takes place during the "Liturgy of the Word" at each service. Children are "invited to follow the cross to Children's Church" right before the first reading and return to their families at the Passing of the Peace. Children's Church is never a requirement, and when a child feels ready to begin worshipping with their family fully in "big church" that is something we honor and celebrate!

*Due to the ongoing pandemic and increased Covid numbers in our community we do ask that children attending Children's Church wear masks.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, August 15 Blessing of Backpacks/Back to School Sunday!

Students and Educators of all ages are invited to bring forward their backpacks/school bags/devices/whatever you need to succeed for a special blessing at each of our Sunday Services. Our annual parish picnic with yard games, sidewalk chalk, WATER SLIDE (sprinkler and splash pools for the little ones!) will be from 10am to 2pm! We cannot wait to welcome all of our families back to church as our students and teachers begin a new school year! See you then!

Children's Church and Sunday School

Leader Opportunities! Do you have a passion for sharing the Good News with children? Do you find joy in the things children say and the observations they make? Are you looking for a new way to form your own personal faith, coming closer to Jesus through the eyes of a child? Then we've got the ministry for you?

Our Children's Church and Sunday School ministries are looking for caring individuals who are interested in the work of sharing the Gospel with our youngest Episcopalians! We have MANY ways to engage in this holy work through sharing stories and ideas, and exploring what each story means to us as individuals and as a church family. If you feel called to this type of work give Ms. Barbara a shout at bmccall@stthomasop.org or 913-909-7318 and we'll chat about what this ministry might look like for YOU.

Youth group is starting up on Aug 15 from 6-8pm. Dinner is included and all 6-12th graders are welcome.

Acolyte Training will be **August 22 from 12-2** and it is for ALL acolytes and anyone who wants to become one.



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!!

KC Monarchs vs. Houston Apollos
Saturday, August 28, 7:00pm
Infield Reserve Tickets = \$17 each

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE:

<https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/c646dc>

Join your St. Thomas Friends for some outdoor fun and a celebration of the legacy of the KC Monarchs and the Negro Leagues at Community America Ballpark!

****Please submit ticket requests and payment by August 15 to be included in our group!**

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Does the Old Testament Still Matter?

Are you one of the many who thinks the Old Testament is unimportant because we have the New Testament? The Old Testament is about 2/3 of the whole Bible. It is the scripture Jesus studied, taught, and re-interpreted to free people from the 600+ restrictions that well-meaning traditions and interpretations had imposed. Join with us to discover the Old Testament.

The study is led by Sheryl Roller and Susan Strom. We will use Tremper Longman III's book, *Introducing the Old Testament: A Short Guide to its History and Message* (available at Amazon). The study will give a brief look to each book of the Old Testament.

Our study group will meet via Zoom Thursday mornings from 9:45am - 11:00am. Each class will include conversation, videos, and discussion. Our first meeting will be Thursday morning, August 26.

Please sign up by contacting Sheryl (sljroller@gmail.com) or Susan Strom (913-599-4169; kcsuejazz@hotmail.com).

You're Essential! Give Blood at our next Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 24, 2021—10am to 3pm

Call 1-800-Red cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: StThomasEpiscopal to schedule an appointment.

TOWER TALK

AUGUST 7 & 8, 2021

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sat, 5:30pm—Holy Communion in Nave
Sun, 8:45am—Holy Communion in Nave
Sun, 9:00am—Online service (pre-recorded)
11:00am—Holy Communion in Nave

Masks are required for all indoor services.

The 5:30 and 11:00 services will be live-streamed and available to watch afterward on both YouTube and Facebook.

www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop and www.facebook.com/stthomasop

Visit our website <https://stthomasop.org> for service information for the weekend services. To watch services LIVE click here:

<https://stthomasop.org/livestream/>

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End of summer music good-byes

As the summer comes to an end some of our musicians are moving to music positions and educational opportunities. If possible, please say good-bye to our young professionals as they move away from St. Thomas.

Val Mathenia and James Keller will sing their last service with the choir on August 8 at the 11am service. We have appreciated their music for four years.

Josiah Sprankle will play the August 14, 5:30 service. Following the service he will present a short 30-minute piano recital with a freewill offering.

Comanche Backpacks due this Sunday

All backpacks for Comanche Elementary School have been distributed to be filled. **We will collect the filled backpacks through this Sunday, August 8.** Please bring them to the church Narthex and leave them in the Comanche Elementary boxes by grade level.

All filled backpacks are planned to be delivered to the school on Tuesday, August 10.



Saturday, Aug 7: Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

Sunday, Aug 8: Holy Communion, 8:45am Nave; Online Worship, 9am; Holy Communion, 11:00am Nave; Music Lessons 2—4pm Nave

Monday, Aug 9: Organ reserved for practice, 10-11am; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH & K;

AA, 6:30pm LL

Tuesday, Aug 10: Organ reserved for practice, 10-11am; PEO mtg, 10-11am PH 2; Sword Guild practice, 7pm PH 2

Wednesday, Aug 11: Organ reserved for practice, 10-11am; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH & K; Music recording TBA, 5:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship-7:30pm LL

Thursday, Aug 12: Organ reserved for practice, 10-11am; Classics Men's Small Grp, 7pm PH 2; Al-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

Friday, Aug 13: Organ reserved for practice, 10-11am; Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30 PH & Kitchen; AA, 8pm LL

Saturday, Aug 14: Comanche Mobile Food Pantry; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

Church office hours: Mon— Thurs 9am to 4pm; Fri 9am to Noon

Please schedule all meetings and events with office

To hold a small group meeting or gathering at St. Thomas we ask that you clear the date/time/space with Meribeth in the church office to eliminate any conflicts. If you decide NOT to meet at the church let her know that as well. 913-451-0512 or email mrisebig@stthomasop.org.

Articles for Tower Talk are due by NOON every Monday.

Articles will run for two weeks unless notified otherwise. Send info and articles to mrisebig@stthomasop.org, or call 913-451-0512.



Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and...

in thanksgiving for family & friends—Lea & Marianne Rowland

in loving memory and thanksgiving for the life of Dennis, Jeff & Kim—Barbara, Phil & Jana Staley

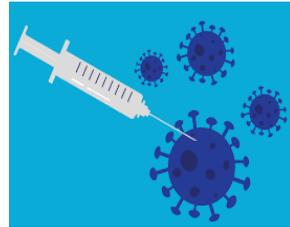
Outreach at St. Thomas

Comanche Mobile Food Pantry—August 14

The next Mobile Pantry will be on **Saturday, August 14**. Volunteer signup information can be found here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4CA9AC2FA1FA7-mobile1>

Covid Vaccine Clinic Next Sunday, Noon-3

We have a vaccine clinic at St. Thomas Episcopal OP coming up on **AUGUST 15 from Noon-3 pm**. You do not need an appointment, no i.d. is needed. This clinic will be staffed by the Johnson County Health Department.



Child Watch + Kids Waterslide (12-2) + Snacks + Gift Cards while supplies last! The Pfizer vaccine will be offered—1st or 2nd dose—**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

We know many of you have already been vaccinated—please spread the word with

anyone. Pick up a poster in the Narthex this weekend and take to your workplace, grocery store, or coffee shop. Let us do our part in the fight against COVID-19!

St Thomas Episcopal Church, 123rd & Antioch

IHN Training Cancelled on August 19

JoCo IHN has cancelled the August 19 training. Vicki Dercher, JoCo IHN Executive Director, advised us that there will not be training in August due to Covid increase.

Thom's Helpers can shred for you!

Shredding is an ongoing project of Thom's Helpers. If you have documents that need to be shredded they can definitely do that for you.

You may bring documents in plastic or paper bags, or boxes - not containers that need to be returned. All your documents are kept locked up and secure until shredding time. Also, the three commercial shredders being used are considered to be very secure.

Bring your shredding to church any Mon/Wed/Fri between 10:30-1 while Thom's Helpers are here and they'll unload it from your car!



Words for a Divided World

Eliza Griswold, Pulitzer Prize Winner

Co-sponsored by the Kansas Book Festival and the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas



Wednesday, September 1, 7 pm
Grace Cathedral, Topeka
Free and open to the public.

In an era that is polarized politically and religiously, how can Americans of faith re-open the conversation and find common ground and purpose?

Griswold writes frequently for *The New Yorker* on faith and politics (and also happens to be the daughter of former Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Frank Griswold). All are welcome to this free, public event. It promises to be a lively evening!

Eliza Griswold is the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Amity and Prosperity* which recounts the true story of how fracking shattered one Pennsylvania town and how one resident brought it to light. She also wrote *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam*, which won the 2011 J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize. Her latest book, "If Men, Then," a darkly humorous collection of poems, explores the world's fracturing through the collapse of the ego, embodied in a character named "I"—a soul wrestling with itself in the face of an unfolding tragedy. Her translations of Afghan women's folk poems, "I Am the Beggar of the World," was awarded the 2015 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation, and her original poetry won the 2010 Rome Prize from the American Academy of Art and Letters in Rome. Griswold has held fellowships from the New America Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation and Harvard University. Currently a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University, Eliza Griswold lives in New York with her husband and son.