



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

NEWS RELEASE

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Gun Destruction Event to Honor MSU Shooting Victim Bloomfield Church to Destroy Guns and Transform Them into Artwork

SOUTHFIELD – (July 29, 2024) – Need a gun destroyed? Volunteers at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile Road in Bloomfield Township are prepared to collect, destroy, and transform long guns, pistols, and assault rifles from anyone in the community who has an unwanted firearm. Gun parts will be made into artwork in honor of Alex Verner, one of three Michigan State University students killed in a 2023 mass shooting there.

On Saturday, August 3 from 9a-1p volunteers will operate 6 high performance chop saws to destroy unwanted guns in the church's parking lot while artisans will take those parts and turn them into works of art. "Alex was an artist," said her father Ted Verner, "And just like her life transformed countless others, this event will have a transforming influence on gun donors who will have a place to dispose of their guns safely and completely."

"We're excited to have these unwanted guns where their owners wanted them – destroyed and out of circulation," said Fr. Bob Alltop, rector of Nativity, "And many gun donors had a chance to turn gun parts into jewelry, key fobs, crosses, and many other works of art. It reminds us of God's transforming power to turn what was meant for threat or harm into things of beauty and tranquility."

As a 'thank you' for their weapons, donors can receive artwork, t-shirts, and/or gift cards from Kroger or Meijer. Supporters include the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and many area churches and private citizens. University of Michigan researchers will be on hand as part of their ongoing research into unwanted weapons in the U-S.

This is the second of 6 similar events planned for this summer. The first, at St. David's in Southfield destroyed 90 guns on July 13. Remaining 2024 sites include:

- Aug 24 - Church of the Messiah, Detroit - 231 E Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48207 9a-1p
- Sept 28 - All Saints, Pontiac - 71 W Pike St, Pontiac, MI 48341 - 9a-1p
- Oct 5 - St. Andrew's, Waterford - 5301 Hatchery Rd, Waterford Twp, MI 48329 9a-1p
- Nov 9 - St. Aidan's, 1679 Broadway, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 - 9a-1p

"These events will not only meet important social needs like safety and community building," said Marcia Gershenson, Oakland County Commissioner, "but the act of transforming weapons used for harm into something beautiful testifies to our ability to change and transform our societies."

The event is sponsored by Nativity Episcopal Church and the St. David Gun Disposal Ministry in Southfield who are proud to partner with State, County and local law enforcement in its buyback efforts. Go to stdavidssf.org for more information or make a donation to this non-profit ministry.