



St. Lawrence

Episcopal Church

125 W. Church St., Libertyville, IL 60048

847.362.2110



St. Lawrence EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL ARE WELCOME AT ST. LAWRENCE!

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am Education 10:30am

Stay Connected STLAWRENCECHURCH.ORG

847.362.2110



A Village Green **MONTESORI**
Preschool & Kindergarten 847-281-9911

WHOEVER YOU ARE • WHOMEVER YOU LOVE • WHEREVER YOU ARE FROM

WE WELCOME YOU



PARISH PROFILE

The Center Holds

What is at the center of a worshipping community? For St. Lawrence Church, it is the celebration of the Eucharist. All are welcome, without qualifications, and this is explicitly stated every Sunday. Children are served first, approaching from the Soft Space by the altar before leaving for Sunday School. Parishioners with mobility issues receive the elements at their seats in the congregation. Lay Eucharistic Ministers take homemade bread and wine with a blessing to members who cannot attend, but still want to partake. Our congregation makes space for a spectrum of beliefs. This is something about which everyone at St. Lawrence agrees: The Lord's table is set for everyone, no questions asked.

So what happens when we are caught in between the retirement of our Rector of thirteen years and the hiring of an Interim Rector, and our church doors are closed because of a pandemic? What is left when the bread, wafers, and wine are out of reach, and there is no priest to preside at Spiritual Communion or bless us? What is left is one person blessing another, no ordination required. What is left is the congregation, who is the body of Christ. We are the center of St. Lawrence Church.

Our response to COVID-19 has been a vital step in our process of discerning the way forward for St. Lawrence. We have spent the last few years engaged in honest conversation about our financial health, exploring every option for our future. Our beautiful historic building in the heart of Libertyville's lively downtown has become a financial burden, limiting the resources we can dedicate to programs and ministries. Taking our community and worship online has allowed us to understand that in a new and different space, virtual or physical, the center will hold for St. Lawrence. We are ready to step into the future together alongside our new Rector, who will guide, encourage and bless us in this journey.

Our Mission

To grow relationships,
serving in community,
empowered through
worship.



Our Vision



A vibrant, engaged community feeding those who
hunger in body, mind or spirit, celebrating God's love and
offering a spiritual home for all.

Our Promise

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, St. Lawrence
welcomes you.

We celebrate diversity and, following Jesus' example,
embrace ALL God's people.

As a community, we cherish your uniqueness as God has
made you: across cultural backgrounds, skin color,
citizenship/immigration status, political views, age,
gender identity/expression/attraction, marital and
economic status, and physical and cognitive abilities.

Whoever you are, whomever you love, wherever you are
from,

WE WELCOME YOU!



Our Worship (pre- pandemic)



Firmly rooted in Episcopal liturgy and tradition, yet flexible and inclusive, we consider our worship exceptional in both quality and spiritual content. Our two Sunday morning Eucharists follow Rites One and Two from *The Book of Common Prayer*; during the summer we utilize liturgical resources from diverse parts of the Anglican Communion. Music for Rite Two worship embraces a broad span of styles from traditional hymns, to Taizé, gospel music and modern choral pieces. Families have the option of making use of the Soft Space, a comfortable area near the altar where children have an unobstructed view of all the action and join in the Gospel procession.

We are blessed with wide lay participation in all aspects of our worship, and a creative Liturgical Arts Group that plans for special services throughout the year. We take worship into the community with early morning Ash Wednesday “Ashes to Go” for commuters at the Village train station, and a popular pet blessing during Libertyville’s Dog Days of Summer festival, often with assistance by clergy from neighboring churches.



Our Response to COVID-19

From March 15, 2020 when our doors closed, until October 1, 2020 when the interim rector began, we were without a consistent full-time priestly presence. The people of St. Lawrence rose to the occasion. Parishioners led Sunday Morning Prayer online, including homilies, for a regular group of 40-50 attendees. Our Music Director initiated a weeknight online Compline service. Sunday School went online biweekly and Confirmation Class resumed monthly meetings, outdoors as weather permitted. Parishioners organized pastoral calls to check on the most vulnerable in our community. Parish meetings and small groups moved to Zoom where new Trivia nights blossomed as a fun social activity. Hope Food Pantry began contactless drive-up food distribution, meeting the growing need for food assistance in the area.

We know now more than ever that when faced with unprecedented challenges, the center of St. Lawrence is not in a building, but in the people of our parish and our common worship and work.



Our Work and Strengths

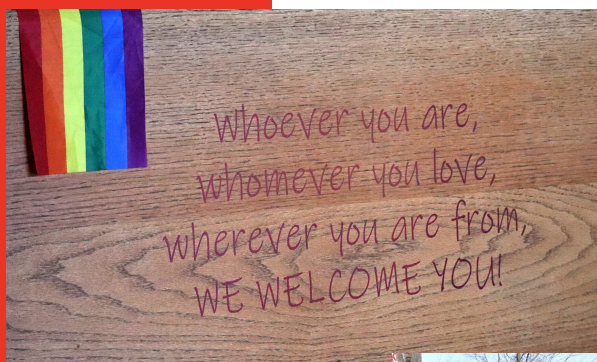


The work of St. Lawrence is led jointly by the rector and the strong lay leadership in the congregation. Our worship fuels us to participate in formation, pastoral care, hospitality, community building and outreach. Formation begins during worship and continues in our Godly-Play based Sunday School. A two-year Confirmation class pairs 7th -10th graders with adult mentors. Adults explore and expand their formation in Conversations That Matter through education and frank discussion open to all. Past outside presenters have included mental health advocates, local librarians and immigrants sharing their stories. In 2020 our focus for CTM was “A Christian Response to Racism.”

We build community through small groups like Young Episcopal Seniors (YES), Seeking Sophia for women, The Men’s Group, Education for Ministry (EFM), Book Club, Believe Out Loud and the Holy Crafters.

Our primary outreach is through HOPE Food Pantry, which has grown over time to be a stand-alone 501-C3 organization providing food staples, produce, meat, milk and hygiene products to people in need in our community. St. Lawrence is a supporting member of Lake County United, which leads community organizing efforts.

Our strengths include our unconditional welcome, intellectual and spiritual curiosity, openness to new expressions of faith and new ways to serve God in our congregation and the world. We demonstrate a deep commitment to taking care of each other in spiritual community.



Our Past, Present, and Challenges for our Future



Since its first service in the early 1900s, St. Lawrence Church has served not only as a worship space but as a social, educational and healing hub in the center of the Village of Libertyville. It has been the go-to space for Village events like Cookies and Cocoa at the Village Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, Historical Society photography exhibitions, and numerous 12 step and other recovery programs. Our history is characterized by persistence and resilience, from rebuilding after a fire in 1917 to overcoming financial hardships in the 1920-30s. Our welcoming nature has a long history too; in 1977, St. Lawrence hired as an assistant priest the first woman ordained in the Diocese of Chicago.

In the early 2000s, St. Lawrence was bursting at the seams and built a spacious new sanctuary. Unfortunately, due to the financial crisis of 2008 and resulting changes in demographics, the mortgage from that expansion became an obstacle to adequately funding staff, programs and ministries. We have spent the last few years in deliberate, honest conversation exploring our options. After much research, education and discussion, the congregation reached a strong consensus about our present challenges, which include:

- Creating a financially healthy, sustainable future for St. Lawrence and our ministries, a process that may require us to leave our central location;
- How to take God's message outside our doors to our surrounding community;
- Creating opportunities for formation and fellowship that meet the needs of all parishioners, from people who are homebound to busy youth and families.



St. Lawrence In Our Own Words

(Taken from
Small Group
Listening
Sessions)

Our New Rector



The Rev. Kristin L.
Saylor



Guided by the Holy Spirit, and after a reflective 15 month period and prayerful discernment, our Rector Search Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that St. Lawrence call The Rev. Kristin L. Saylor as our next Rector, and the Vestry unanimously agreed.

Kristin recently served as the Director of Formation at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, where she focused her energy on social justice, adult faith formation, and innovative liturgical design. Prior to that, she served for three years as Priest Associate at St. Peter's in Port Chester, New York, a primarily Latinx parish in the suburbs of New York City. She is a graduate of the Virginia Theological Seminary.

A Midwesterner by birth and at heart, Kristin grew up in Milwaukee and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After living on both the East and West coasts for the past 12 years, she is thrilled to return to her Midwestern roots and serve the people of St. Lawrence as their next Rector.

Joining her on this next chapter of life's adventure are her husband, Kyle (also an Episcopal priest and proud Midwesterner!), and their one year-old daughter, Fiona (soon to be proud Midwesterner). Kyle is finishing a doctoral dissertation in educational media. In Kristin's not so abundant free time, she is an avid triathlete and looks forward to finding new places to swim, bike and run around Libertyville.

St. Lawrence welcomes the arrival of Kristin, Kyle and Fiona! Together with our new Rector, the people of St. Lawrence will build on our strengths, face our challenges and reach for new ways of being St. Lawrence, together.