



# The Church of St. Elisabeth

“We at St. Elisabeth’s  
share an adventurous  
spirit and a commitment  
to radiate God’s love  
within and beyond our red  
doors” — *Mission statement*



## Overview

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St. Elisabeth's is located in the community of Glencoe, Illinois, on the north shore of Chicago. The parish draws members from neighboring communities, filling a uniquely warm and intimate niche between larger Episcopal congregations in the area. We are an inclusive, come-as-you-are parish. Our members report through the most recent CAT that there is acceptance, authenticity and meaningful interaction between generations.

We are open to exploration and experimentation with programs, liturgy and music. St. Elisabeth's lands in the CAT's upper quadrant indicating "High Energy and High Satisfaction". The parish also scores very high in flexibility and adaptability. As one member describes, "The music and liturgy is experimental and fresh, yet rooted in tradition".

Our members are committed to several outreach programs including Soup Kitchen and Family Promise. We are also engaged in a successful parish wide initiative to grow in our faith through interfaith, intercultural and LGBTQ+ understanding.



## The History of Our Church

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On All Saint's Night in 1894, ten Glencoe Episcopalians met and made plans to form St. Paul's Mission. Their first service was held in the Village Hall Council Chambers and was presided over by a student from what later became Seabury-Western Theological Seminary.

Over the next ten years as St. Paul's Mission Church grew they built a small frame church on another piece of property and then acquired the present site on Vernon Avenue. The Rt. Rev. Charles P. Anderson, Bishop of Chicago, laid the cornerstone for our beautiful Gothic church in 1904. The stone church was a gift of the then rector, the Very Rev. Luther Pardee, in memory of his mother. At that time, we took the name "The Church of St. Elisabeth," a choice perhaps influenced by the name of Father Pardee's mother. On April 26, 1908, the newly-named church was admitted to the diocese by Bishop Anderson. In 1914 our rectory was built.

The church continued to grow. By the 1920s the need was felt to build a proper parish hall to house the activities of a busy congregation. Plans to build a stone parish hall were drawn up in 1927 but were slowed by the Depression and later by the war. Even so, the undercroft served well as a gymnasium. It also housed parties, women's guild activities, Red Cross meetings, Sunday School classes, scout and community events. In fact, it served the entire community until Glencoe's upper grammar school built an auditorium.



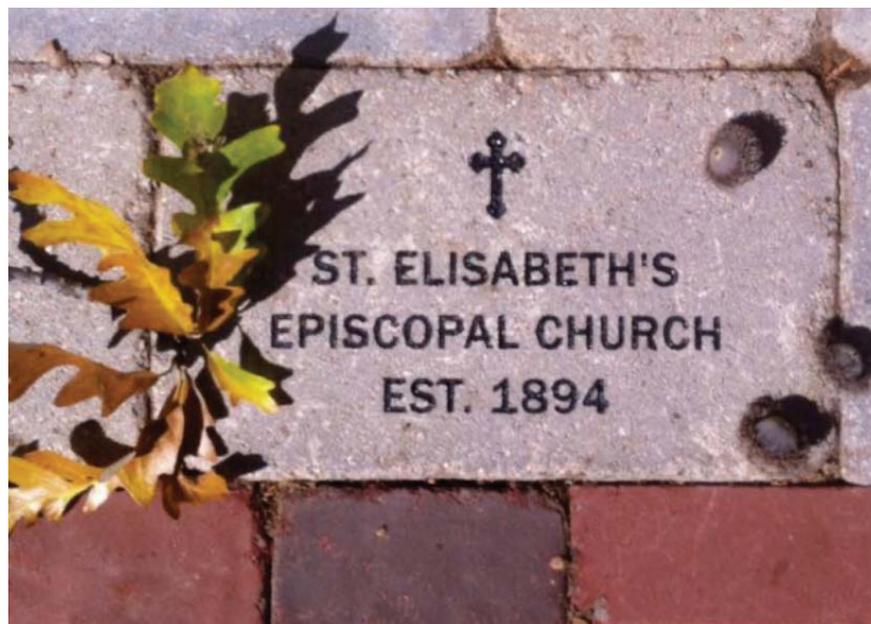
## History (cont.)

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In 1944, amid its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the church redoubled its efforts to complete the building campaign. On September 11, 1949 our parish hall, including kitchens, classrooms, offices, guild rooms and the Chapel of Christ the King, was dedicated. The Church continued to prosper over the next several decades.

During the last three decades, the Church of St. Elisabeth has enjoyed continuity in its leadership. The Reverend Raymond E. Britt, Jr., served from 1972 until 1977, when he left to take charge of a family business. Father Britt and his family continued to live in Glencoe. The Reverend George S. Andrews II served for 11 years beginning in 1978. After his retirement and a year of interim ministry, the Church called the Reverends Polly M. and Philip H. Kasey, an ordained couple, to share the office of Rector. This was the first such arrangement in the Diocese of Chicago.

The Kaseys announced a move to the East Coast in 2005 when St. Elisabeth's called The Reverend Daphne Cody. Reverend Cody had been serving as an assistant at St. Mary's in Park Ridge, Illinois. Daphne was St. Elisabeth's Rector, raising her family in Glencoe, until she left in the summer of 2019 to join her husband in Morocco on a Fulbright Scholar engagement.



## The Community of Glencoe, IL

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Glencoe is a community of approximately 8,800 people, located along Lake Michigan and 20 miles north of Chicago. It is part of an area known as Chicago's north shore. It is a residential suburb with a quaint shopping district and while many residents find it convenient to shop in the village there are other excellent shopping areas within an easy drive. Glencoe is an established community as there is little undeveloped land in the village. It is a community of peaceful, tree-lined neighborhoods and older, often stately, homes.

Most residents of Glencoe are well-educated professionals, many of whom commute to work in Chicago or other suburbs. Glencoe is home to an award-winning library and also to Writers Theatre. To the north and within biking distance is Ravinia Music Festival, the oldest outdoor music festival in the U.S.

We are home to Jewish synagogues and five Protestant churches, including St. Elisabeth's, creating a wonderful opportunity for interfaith understanding. Most of our Catholic neighbors attend church at Sacred Heart/Divine Mercy Parish, south of Glencoe in the community of Winnetka.



*Glencoe Grand Prix*



*Glencoe train station*

The high school for Glencoe students is New Trier High School, nationally recognized for its excellence, particularly in its college preparatory program. Freshmen attend the Northfield campus and move to the Winnetka campus for sophomore through senior year. The Glencoe public schools - South School (K-2d grade), West School (3d and 4<sup>th</sup> grade) and Central School (4th-8th grade) - are outstanding, and have the active support and involvement of parents throughout the community. There are also a number of fine private schools in the area.

The Glencoe public beach on Lake Michigan is one of the most beautiful in the region. It is maintained by the Glencoe Park District and has a boating beach for those who like to sail. The Park District also maintains tennis courts at a number of locations around the Village and an ice rink. The Village of Glencoe operates an 18-hole public golf course, and there are also two private country clubs. The western edge of Glencoe borders on a magnificent Forest Preserve, an unspoiled area of lagoons, woods, footpaths and bike trails where one can enjoy nature's beauty any time of the year. Adjacent to the Village is the Chicago Botanic Garden, a major regional attraction and popular place to visit.



*Glencoe Beach*



*Chicago Botanic Garden*



## The Diocese of Chicago

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The Diocese of Chicago covers the northern half of the state of Illinois, and contains urban, suburban and rural parishes and missions. The diocese is organized into deaneries and St. Elisabeth's is part of its active Evanston Deanery.

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee was elected Bishop of Chicago in 2008, replacing The Rt. Rev. William Persell.

St. Elisabeth's enjoys a healthy relationship with The Diocese of Chicago and many of our parishioners have served it in various ways. Following is just a sampling:

## Serving Beyond St. Elisabeth's

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Leslie Alter- Diocesan Representative at All Our Children National Symposium on Equity in Public Education

Peter Rossiter- Honorary Canon, St. James Cathedral; General Counsel, Episcopal Charities; Former Chancellor and Current Endowment Fund Trustee, Diocese of Chicago

Anne Tuohy- Honorary Canon, St. James Cathedral; Trustee, Bexley-Seabury Theological Seminary; Multi-year Deputy to General Convention; Former Standing Committee Member, Diocese of Chicago; Episcopal Church Liaison to National Council of Churches



# The Church, Rectory & Grounds

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What appears to be one church building is actually two connected structures. In the 40's, an addition, including a kitchen, parish hall, chapel, choir room, Sunday school rooms and full basement, was added to the original 1907 church. We share our basement space with Glencoe Montessori Preschool and the Boy Scouts.

Within the last two years we've designed and added our new Chapel Terrace just outside the church's north entrance. It has created a wonderful space to gather for formal services and casual meetings. To the east is our church lawn, facing Vernon Avenue, a major thorough-fare through town. To the west is our rectory, a Tudor-style home of stucco with five bedrooms and an updated kitchen. Bethany Labyrinth completes our block. It sits behind the rectory and is accessible to the public.



*The Rectory*



*Bethany Labyrinth*

## The Rector We Seek

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The members of St. Elisabeth's are looking for a rector who shares their warmth, authenticity and openness to experimentation and change. Parishioners highly value a preaching style that is engaging, inspiring and intellectually challenging. An ideal rector would have a deep knowledge and appreciation for the liturgical and historical traditions of the church, and also embrace liberal theology and experimentation with music and worship.

We hope to find an individual with social media savvy and technology skills to help us navigate the current crisis and ever-changing landscape of modern life and our community's participation in church services.

St Elisabeth's Search Committee, 2020

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[www.steglencoe.org](http://www.steglencoe.org)



