

St. David's Episcopal Church Profile

Aurora, Illinois

Introduction

St. David's Episcopal Church in Aurora, Illinois seeks a .7 FTE rector to lead the parish in uniting people, serving the community, and sharing Christ's teachings.

Our Congregation

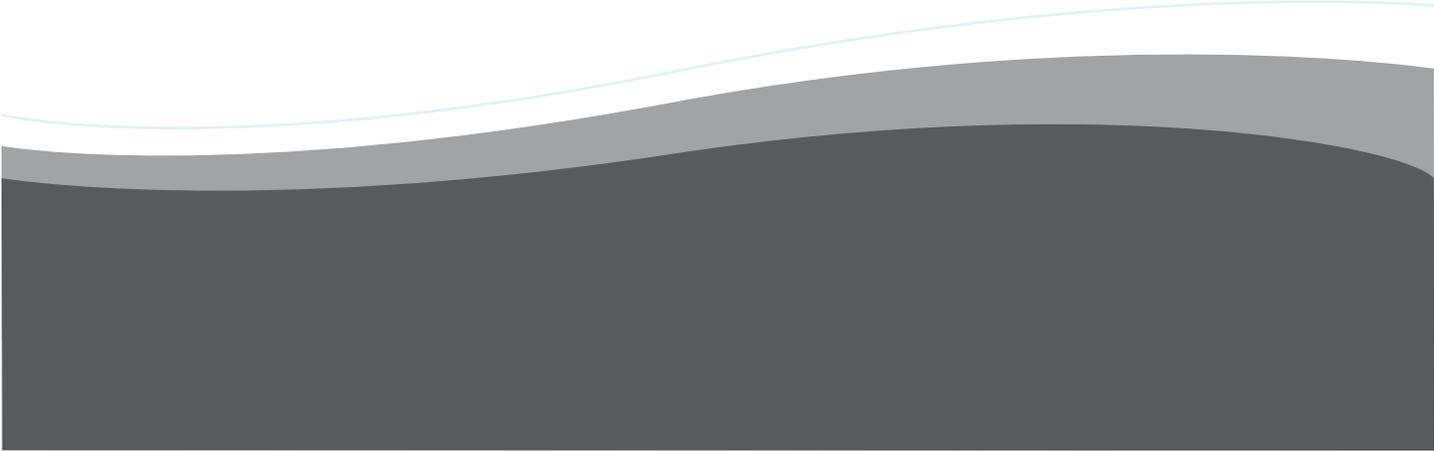
Ours is a family-size congregation with a passion for serving our neighbors in need. Parishioners come from Aurora and surrounding communities to be connected to Episcopal traditions. We are open and diverse and welcome everyone to Jesus's table. Our parishioners describe St. David's as an intimate and nonjudgmental congregation that celebrates its diversity.

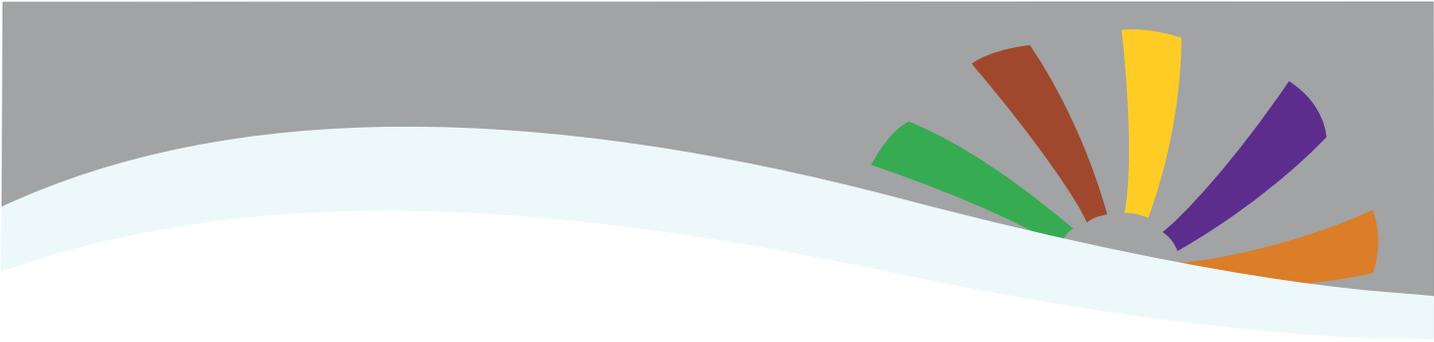
We worship and serve together and enjoy each other's company. During pre-pandemic times lively coffee hours followed the 9:00 AM service, and on the first Sunday of the month there was a special pancake breakfast put on by volunteers. We had potlucks and events throughout the year, commemorating milestones for parishioners. We have hosted presentations by knowledgeable community members, including a local teacher who is an undocumented DREAMer as well as a parishioner who is a physicist at nearby Fermilab in Batavia. In prayer and with cards, calls, and visits, we work to support and care for each other through life's ups and downs and live out our mission statement as we do the "little things."

"Be joyful, and keep your faith and creed

Do the little thing that you have seen me do and hear about"

- St. David of Wales





Our City

Aurora is a city of over 200,000 people in the far western suburbs of Chicago. We have easy access into Chicago by expressway and the Metra rail system. Aurora is the second largest city in the state and is diverse both ethnically and socio-economically. Although the city has struggled over the past thirty years with urban issues of poverty and crime, community leaders have worked to make Aurora a safe and vibrant community in which to live and work. Aurora has an exceptional theater that continuously wins “Jeff Awards” from the Chicagoland theater community. Our riverfront has been built up with a gorgeous outdoor music/performance facility. There are walking paths along the Fox River as well as a just-completed pedestrian and bicycle bridge. New recreational and business opportunities are developing, and there are numerous social service agencies to assist those in need. Aurora is engaged in community conversations regarding police officers’ interactions with BIPOC and has recently established a civilian review board.

Our Church Buildings and Location

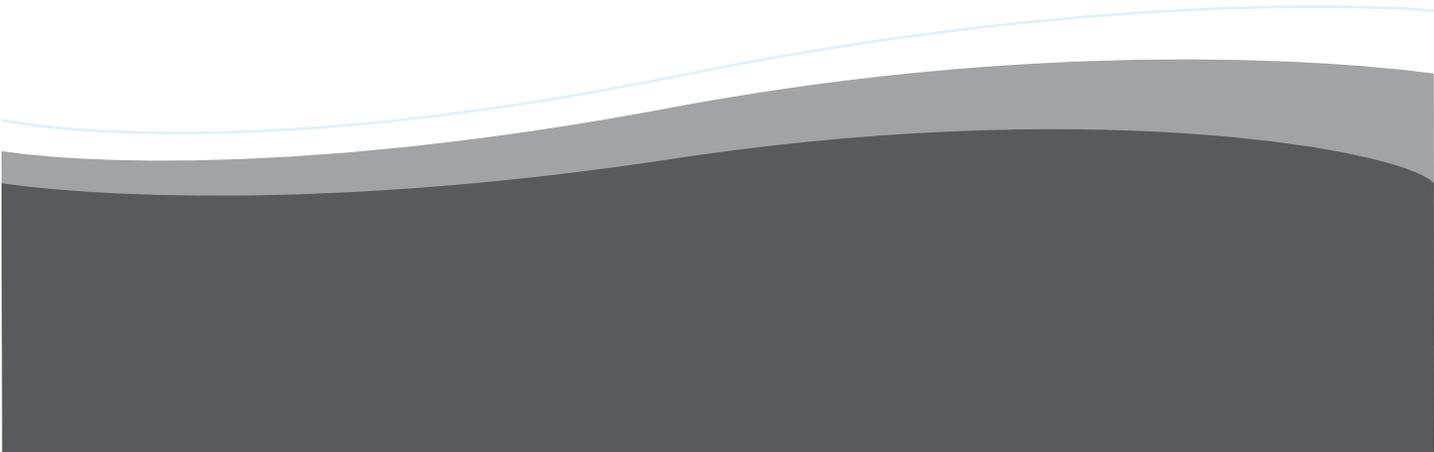
St. David’s is a both a modern and a warm environment for worship. The high-pitched wooden ceiling soars and the eye-level stained glass windows are stunning with intense colors. Thanks to the recent addition of air conditioning it is comfortable in all seasons. The church is a local landmark on five acres at the intersection of two well-travelled roads. We have a sizable rectory and a memorial garden on the grounds. We use both the church and the grounds for the benefit of our community. St. David’s entered into an arrangement with New Hope Lutheran Church, ELCA in 2019 to provide that congregation with worship space, and we have held combined services from time to time. We also share our space with the Maranatha Hispanic Seventh Day Adventist Company.

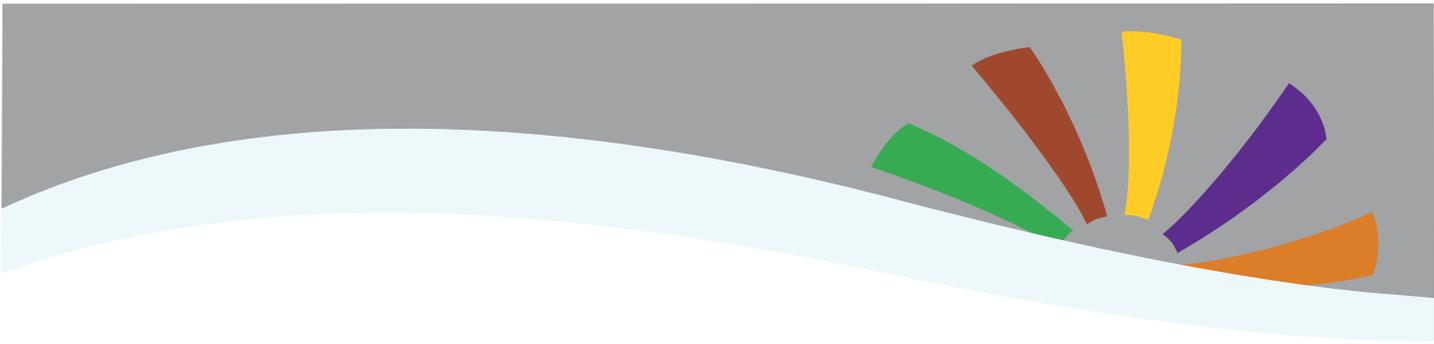
Our History

In our almost sixty years St. David’s has had six priests, each staying an average of ten years, with our most recent rector serving from 2014-2020. Our membership is very loyal. The last of our founding members died in 2017 and his services were held at St. David’s, as he still considered himself part of our congregation.

Our Service

We love our traditional worship and the ritual of the Episcopal Church AND we are open to new ideas. Every Sunday during normal times we have one Rite II service at 9:00 AM. Pre-COVID we had an especially warm and welcoming Peace during our service as well as a friendly coffee hour with updates from all members. During the current pandemic we have a hybrid service that is both in-person (when permitted) and via Zoom. We have a virtual coffee hour after our current services when each attendee says hello and talks a little about the prior week and/or comments on what was enjoyable about the service or the message that day.





Our Music

Our music is important to us and we look forward to singing together again. We use the 1982 Hymnal as well as Lift Every Voice and Sing. We have a fine pipe organ with 17 stops and 20 ranks and enjoy the organ music being a part of our worship together. The acoustics in the church are exceptional and the music is much appreciated.

Our Outreach

For more than 25 years, St. David's has embraced outreach to our neighbors. We want to maintain this passion for involvement in our community.

Our current outreach includes:

Sandwich Board *prepare and serve hot lunch every 5th Thursday for an average of 150 people at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Aurora*

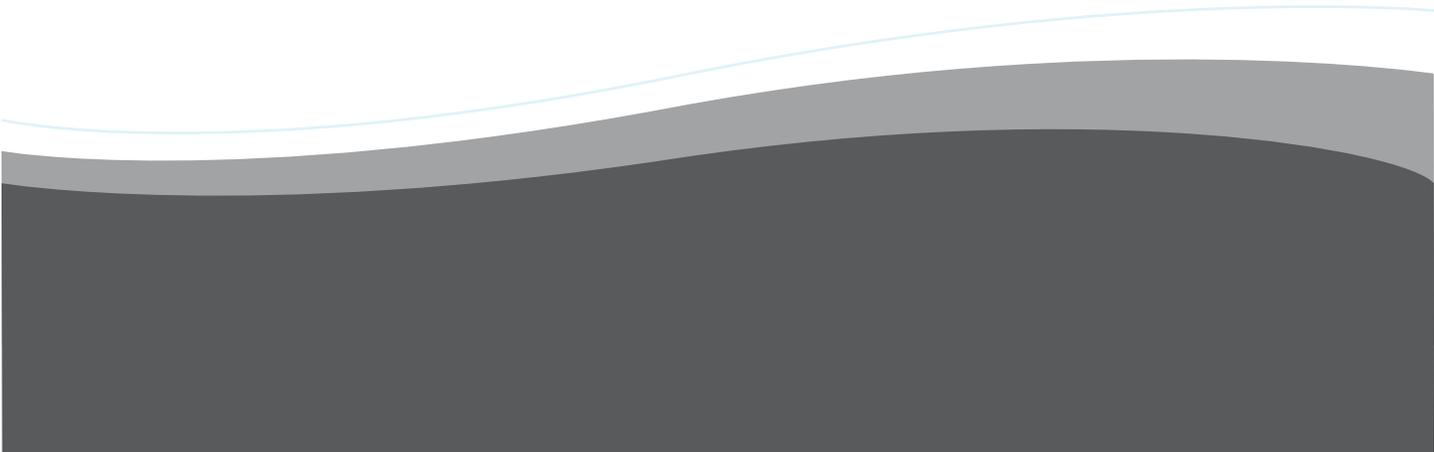
Support of our neighborhood elementary school, McCleery, *by providing necessities and extras with donations of school supplies; buses for a field trip; winter hats, scarves, and mittens; and a gift-wrapped book for every first-grader at Christmas*

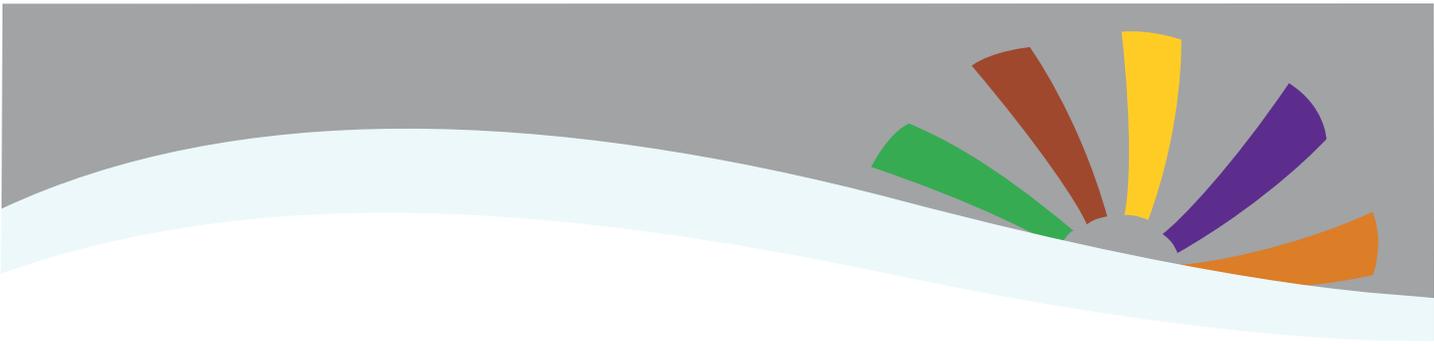
Regular donations *to the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry*

Laundry Love *ministering to our neighbors while paying for their laundry at a local laundromat*

Our Challenges and Opportunities

While we have a commitment to ministry and pastoral care in the community, we have seen attendance decline; our congregation is generally older. The spacious church grounds present both an opportunity for greater use and a challenge for upkeep. The deferred maintenance of the rectory needs to be addressed. For these reasons, our next priest should have a passion for serving the community and gifts for pastoral care and growth. S/he should be excited about a neighborhood-focused ministry and be ready to be present with people during difficult times. We value our traditions and our connection to the larger Episcopal Church and we are open to God's nudging and leadership into new directions.





Our Finances

2021 Operating Budget

Operating Revenues

Current Year Pledges	\$56,310.00
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$16,000.00
Open Plate Offerings	\$1,000.00
Dividends and Interest	\$100.00
Facilities/Rental Income	\$23,557.75
Total Revenues	\$96,967.75



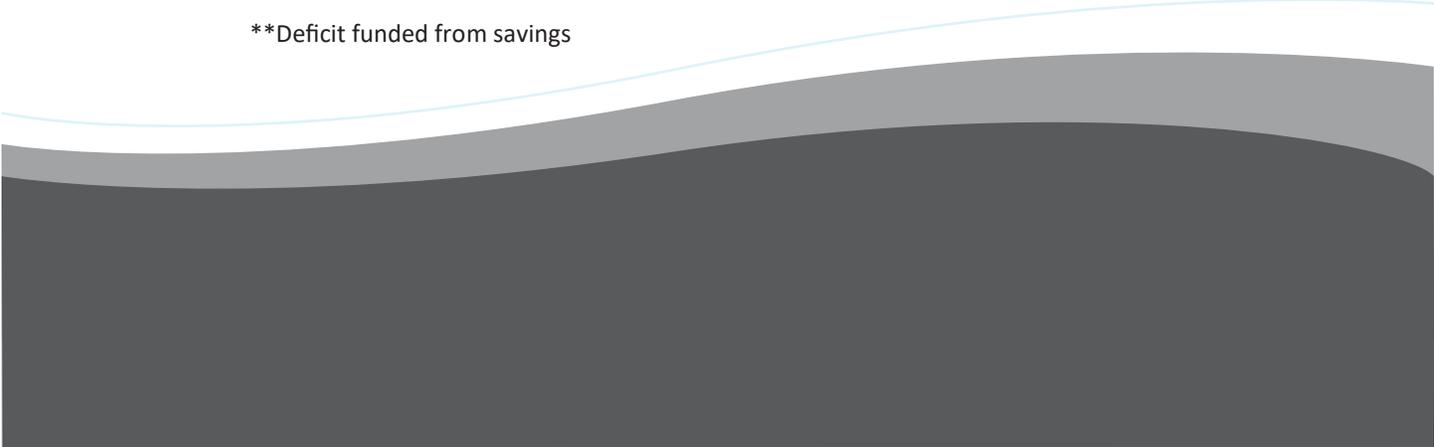
Operating Expenses

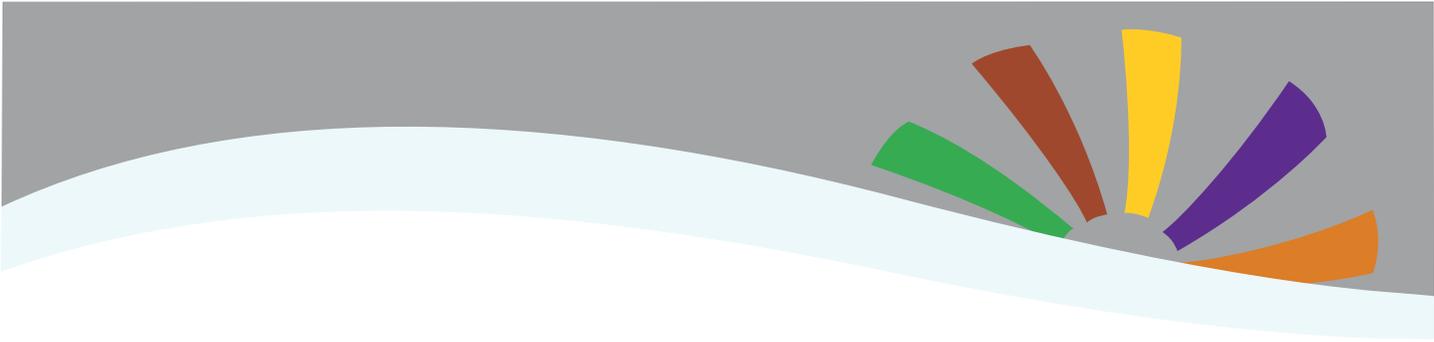
Salaries and benefits*	\$48,320.00
Utilities & Insurance	\$17,263.00
Administrative Expenses	\$27,620.00
Repair & Maintenance Expenses	\$10,150.00
Church Mission Expenses Worship	\$2,600.00
Hospitality	\$100.00
Outreach	\$6,600.00
Communications	\$350.00
Total Expenses	\$113,003.00

Net Total** (16,035.25)

*assumes rector start date after Pentecost

**Deficit funded from savings





We love, respect and care for all persons

We celebrate and pray together

We share Christ's teachings

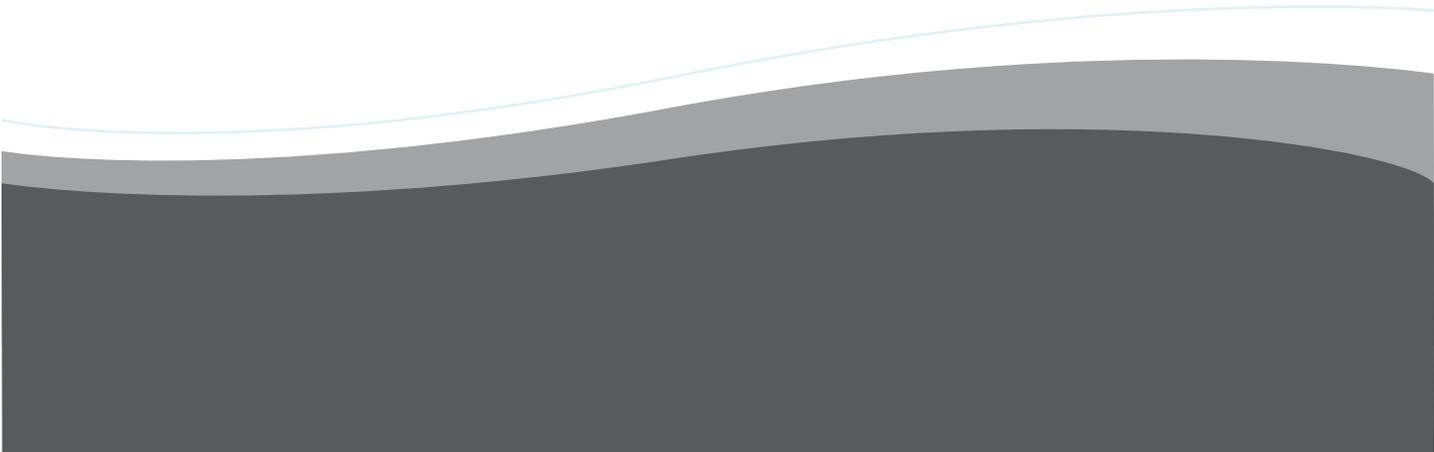
Our Diocese and Leadership

The Rev. Canon Paula E. Clark was elected in December to be the thirteenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and is scheduled to be consecrated on April 24th. The Diocese has 122 member congregations in northern Illinois, extending from Lake Michigan on the east to the Wisconsin border on the north to the Iowa border on the west and south almost to Springfield. The Diocese is known for its leadership initiatives designed to support congregational vitality. To this end, the Diocese focuses its energies on two key programs: The College for Congregational Development and Fierce Conversations. The Nicholas Center, located on the fifth floor of the Diocesan office building in downtown Chicago, provides classroom space and accommodations for these programs as well as other leadership events.

How to Apply

To apply for this position please complete the Clergy Information Form for Transitions found on the diocesan website: <https://episcopalchicago.wufoo.com/forms/m1poxgz40cwsj2w/>

For more information about this position, please contact Andrea Mysen, Director of Ministries, at amysen@episcopalchicago.org.





Summary

We cherish our traditions but are by no means static; we need someone to help us build on our past. We are seeking a .7 FTE rector. We want our new priest to challenge us as God leads us through the changes in our world and as we determine how to move forward in faith.

