

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, 11th Bishop of Utah
 The Rev. Michael Carney, Vicar



Sunday Worship, Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM

A Special Christmas

The first thing that made Christmas special this year at St. Elizabeth's happened in the middle of November. Led by our Bishop's Committee we invited the whole community for a festive Holiday Meal. Everyone at the church pitched in to bake turkeys and pies, make side dishes and decorate, serve and clean up. We planned for a hundred people but there were more—they all had a good time and there was food left over!

Last winter the Poowegup girls collected \$80 in coins, the beginning of their Children's Offering which has made such an impact in the community (like paying the costs of the Holiday Meal). This year their coins added up to \$120, which after being matched by the church bought Walmart gift cards for two local families and an elder in the nursing home. Giving those early Christmas presents meant a lot to all of us.



That Spirit carried over into preparing for Christmas. On the second Sunday of December about twenty people made quick work of putting up decorations in the sanctuary and parish hall. Everything looked great and there was plenty of time to add the finishing touches. Kids got interested in the Pageant and Becca Gardner organized the teenaged narrators.

Christmas Eve was a wonderful celebration. Kids arrived more than an hour early to pick out their costumes, and the parish hall was bustling with activity before the service. The church was packed with old friends and the young people put on a wonderful Pageant. It seemed like we had Communion twice: once in the sanctuary and then again in the parish hall. The food was

terrific and Santa arrived with gifts for the kids.

What makes Christmas special? Festive decorations, Silent Night by candlelight and the church family gathered together for a meal are all wonderful. But there's nothing like seeing the Christmas story come to life, being part of bringing that Spirit to the whole community. Thanks be to God for St. Elizabeth's!

Michael



Bible Study

This fall our Bible Study group has been exploring the presence and work of the Holy Spirit: how it was revealed in biblical times and how we experience it in our own lives. We focused on the Acts of the Apostles, sometimes jokingly called the Acts of the Holy Spirit because of its central role in the early church. We spent time discussing early apostles like Peter, Stephen, Lydia and Paul to learn more about how they encountered the Spirit.

If it shaped lives then, why not now? As we began to discuss how the Spirit works in the current time, we were drawn into a series of powerful conversations about our own faith journeys. It was exciting to realize that, as long as we stay open and present, today's church can be just as Spirit-filled.

Beginning on February 1 we'll read some of Paul's writings on Spiritual Gifts, which he insisted are the foundation of church communities. We'll take a gifts inventory in order to get a better idea of how God is at work in our lives. Everyone is welcome regardless of your background—please consider joining our group, which meets on Friday mornings at 10:00 am.

Michael

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



Irene Cuch (5), Jane Thompsen (8), Teresa Bear (11)
Sandra Asay (12), Joylynn Hummingbird Duncan (23)

Natlie Upchego LaRose (24)

Curtis Cuch (29), Evelyn Cuch (30)

Kayden Bentley Bear (31)



St. Elizabeth's Mission Statement

Noochu (the people) of St. Elizabeth's welcome you to worship, share hospitality and grow in God's love to better serve the church and community.



Christmas Flowers Given to the Glory of God

In memory of Clifford H. Duncan, Lupe M. Duncan,
Cliftene M. Duncan, Dawn Helm Duncan and
Gabrielle Luperose Manzanares by the Duncan family.

In memory of Margot Adams, by Mick Richman.

In memory of Clarence Carney by Barbara Salvia.

In memory of Wilbur Smith, by the Smith family.

In honor of Douglas Buchs, by Tamara Case.

In thanksgiving for her family by Patsy Simoni.

In thanksgiving by Judy Hanley.

St. Elizabeth's sends special thanks to:

Jane Thompsen and her family, for the gift of a Christmas Eve ham

Dr. Kent Smith, for the gift of a Christmas Eve turkey

Chad Mortensen, for the gift of a Christmas Eve cake

Newfield Oil Company, for their generous support of our
Arts-Kids and Arts-Teens programs

Rhinehart Oil Company, for purchasing our Arts-Kids Christmas Tree