



The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, New York

Volume XXX
Issue 3

March 2023

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WEEKEND SERVICES

(In Person and Online)

Saturday 5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II

Sunday 8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II

Sunday 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II

(In person & online Only)

TUES-THURS

8:00 PM—Compline (online only)

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1 March, 1st Soup Supper/Study
- 5 March, Family Svc & B'fast
- 7 March, Senior St. Pat Luncheon
- 8 March, 2nd Soup Supper/Study
- 12 March, DS Time/Spring forward
- 15 March, 3rd Soup Supper/Study
- 22 March, 4th Soup Supper/Study



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to spread the Gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed to our community and the world.

Resurrection Faith

In the spring of 2020, while Manhattan pastor Timothy Keller was writing a new book about Easter, the world — and his world — stopped. The coronavirus pandemic ravaged New York City, and Keller received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Suddenly the theologian had to confront death head-on and reassess his views on eternal life.

“I realized I only half-believed I was going to die,” he tells *The Christian Post*. “In some ways, I also only half-believed in the Resurrection — not intellectually so much, but all the way down deep in my heart. I realized I needed to have a greater, a deeper faith in the Resurrection, both intellectually and mentally.”

While undergoing cancer treatments, Keller took a deep dive into historical and scriptural evidence for Easter’s main event. He also prayed that the Holy Spirit would make the Resurrection, which can seem abstract, real to his heart.

Facing your own mortality puts earthly things into clear perspective, says the pastor, and it’s a wake-up call for Jesus’ followers to act. “The Resurrection means that God has not at all given up on the world,” Keller writes in *Hope in Times of Fear*. “But beyond that, it gives meaning to suffering and gives hope that through the suffering will come healing. The Resurrection guarantees that this renewal is certain and is also a call for Christians to work now against what is wrong and unjust.”



One of the things I have always enjoyed taking on during the Lenten season is “Lent Madness.” It is found on your computer at www.LentMadness.org and offers a fun way to learn about all the saints you’ve ever heard of and many you didn’t know existed. There are ancient and modern, monastic and activist, and it works much like basketball’s March Madness, except instead of choosing the winning basketball teams you choose the winning saints. Each weekday during Lent the stories of two saints are offered up, and we, the reading audience, need to choose. Today as I read, the contest is between an Anglican writer and apologist –**Dorothy Sayers**--and the first Native American ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church--**Enmegahbowh**. It’s a tough choice, but one must be made. Because that’s how it works.

Excerpt from Dorothy Sayers: Unsatisfied by the weak and often shallow theology of the Anglican church during the 1930s and 1940s, Dorothy was a strong apologist who called for engagement not just in belief but also in dogma, traditions, and practice. [...] We do Him singularly little honor by watering down till it could not offend a fly. Surely it is not the business of the Church to adapt Christ to men, but to adapt men to Christ.”

Excerpt from Enmegahbowh: He first came to Minnesota from Canada as a mission interpreter around 1832. Nearly three decades later, he became the first Indigenous priest. An icon of him created in shows the saint wearing vestments adorned with a traditional Ojibwe floral motif. The medicine wheel, which symbolizes balance and harmony in many Indigenous cultures, circles his head as a halo. In one hand, he carries a pipe, used in traditional Ojibwe spirituality. In the other is a flame, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The image paints a picture of a Native Christian who held Ottawa and Ojibwe cultures in one hand and his Christian faith in the other.

There is much more to learn. Which one do you choose?

--Rodney Dudley

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April Deadline

Thursday, March 23, 2023

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 COME TO SHOP
 COME TO VOLUNTEER

OPEN

Wed, Thu, Sat 10AM to 2PM



A Word from the Rector Father Jeffrey Stevenson



Dear Parish Family

Welcome to Lent. Early Christians observed “a season of penitence and fasting” in preparation for the Paschal feast. The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days) has a long history. In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday... all Christians are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word” (Episcopal Church website)

The Soup Supper/Lenten Series begins on Wednesday March 1 at 6:00 PM. We will gather in the Parish Hall to share a Lenten Soup Supper and then at 7:00 PM we will explore the Bible using Adam Hamilton's book MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE. This Lenten Series is fashioned so that you can join us every Wednesday or only on those Wednesdays you are free. Soup Supper / Lenten Series will meet four times: March 1, 8, 15, & 22. We are looking for home cooks to bring their favorite soups; sign-up is posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board.

Mark your calendars for our next Senior Luncheon! Celebrating Saint Patrick's Day, the next lunch is scheduled for March 7 at noon. RSVP by signing up in the Parish Hall.

This penitential season I encourage you to "put away" a particular comfort and invite God to take its place. I ask you to consider "offering up" something that you habitually turn to for solace like a certain food (sweets are often given up) or an activity (television time is a frequent example) and in its place insert prayer or scripture reading. You can also consider joining in and participating; here's a few ways to start:

On Sundays

- be a lector and/or an usher: reading the lessons, greeting & assisting worshippers
- help the altar guild: preparing the altar for communion before service & taking down afterwards
- host a coffee hour: bring snacks and maybe milk/cream and any other goodies you'd like to share, set up & take down coffee service (coffee/tea supplies provided); sign up is in the parish hall

During the Week

- Food Pantry: assisting on Mondays from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- Thrift Shop: assisting on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Blessings,

Fr. Jeff+

“To experience genuine human love, to be part of a community of love is to experience the presence of God.”

—John J. McNeill

Vestry Visions

The “Not So New to God” Newcomer

Hello, I'm Christine. I connected with the extraordinary St. Ann's during the first Winter of Covid 2020. I was seeking some solace and God during what was one of the roughest times of our lives. What a great discovery for me! I was drawn to the nightly compline's on the web. Compline is a daily final prayer. It's a beautiful way to end a day, however strange and empty it may have felt back then.

*“Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.”*

~ Page 135 from The Book of Common Prayer...
my favorite passage that truly helped me through.

Slowly but surely, St. Ann's started having in-person services and I became drawn to their Saturday night, 5:00 PM Taizé service. It's a tradition I was familiar with when I often visited the Chapel in the Rocks in Sedona, Arizona. Taizé music emphasizes simple phrases repeated, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture. It's quite meditative and soothing.

Another find, for me, was what Father Jeff embodied-- a welcoming representation of a modern Christ, a loving spirit and a teaching guide. Immediately St. Ann's felt like home.

So, yes, I guess I was the “newcomer”... but I was no stranger to God and Jesus's love. I grew up Catholic. I found a loving God with some inspiring Brothers during my Franciscan High School education in Queens.

So, let's get back to you. Who are you? Are you new? Then welcome! You've found a loving home that welcomes you with open arms. Are you someone coming back after whatever life has kept you away, then welcome back, St. Ann's has been waiting for you. Are you here every week participating in the life at St. Ann's? Well, it's a joy to know you, and you are an inspiration to me.

I'm one of the new members of the Vestry here at St. Ann's and I'm excited to help in a hospitality role focusing on newcomers. I'm enthusiastic about this new responsibility and I'm ready to help. That being said, if you are new and wondering what is YOUR next step... reach out to me at sedona328@icloud.com and it would be my pleasure to guide you.

I am a newcomer, but I'm not new to God's love. I feel it here and it feels so natural. I look forward to my journey ahead. Let's experience God's love together at St. Ann's in Sayville.

“Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Kelly-Smimmo, for the Vestry

	Wardens:	2024 Nancy Koinoglou	2025 [open]
	Vestry:	2024 Rich Acierno Carol Ann St. Lawrence	Wendy Schmittzeh John Smith
		2025 Greg Domoff	Krystina DiChiara
		2026 Donald Hester Patricia Osarchuk	Christine Kelly-Smimmo

EASTER BASKET MINISTRY



With your support, St. Ann's food pantry will be distributing Easter Food Baskets to our neighbors in need. If you or somebody you know would benefit from receiving an Easter Basket, **please contact the church office 631-589-6522 or Lynette Schulz 631-472-2235 by March 20th.**

We will again use a Giving Tree to collect food donations. Please

choose items

from the Giving Tree (located in the parish hall) and return item to the church. If you choose to purchase a ham please indicate that on the sign-up sheet along with your phone #.

**We need all non-perishable donations by Sunday, March 26th
Hams by Sunday April 2nd.**

If you are **interested in participating**

- Food donation- tags in parish hall
- Adopt-a-Basket \$50
- Grocery shop week of March 26th
*We are always in need of shoppers
- Assemble & deliver on Palm Sunday, April 2nd



It's tax time again, and our Treasurer, Tom Munkelwitz, has a bit of tax wisdom for those taking a Required Minimum Distribution who donate to a charity (ie, St. Ann's Church).

Tax-Saving Opportunity

If you are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a retirement account or accounts, and you make contributions to a charity such as St. Ann's Church, you may want to take advantage of an IRS provision. If you contribute to a 501(c)(3) charitable institution such as St. Ann's and make that contribution directly from your retirement account, the amount of your contribution will be deducted from your RMD gross income amount for income tax purposes. So, you will not be taxed on the amount of your charitable contribution. This must be a trustee-to-trustee transfer. In other words, your retirement fund administrator must send the money directly to the charity. The funds may not pass through your hands to the charity.

The amount can be any part or all of your RMD up to \$100,000. If your spouse also must take an RMD, he or she may also transfer up to \$100,000 to the charity tax-free.

This transfer is called a QCD or Qualified Charitable Deduction. You should consult your tax advisor before giving any instruction to your retirement fund administrator.



ST. ANN'S FISH FRY

Thanks to Frank Palermo at Claws Seafood Market who catered our fabulous Fish Fry on Sunday, February 26. Diners enjoyed a dinner of fried, cod, shrimp, and clams, along with corn on the cob, French fries, coleslaw, and hush puppies!



And thanks to Diane Magnani who organized the event, set up the raffle, took endless reservations. Husband Rick organized the music and played sax with the band during breaks from the bar which he tended with their daughter Julia. Thanks also to John K. Smith for the photos.

While reservations were the ultimate goal, we also had walk-ins and ended up with more than 100 diners—many more than planned—with extra tables being set up in various corners around the Parish Hall to accommodate the crowd. Many guests came with a tableful of friends or family, but some folks doubled up at communal tables and got to know new people. By 7:30 it was agreed by the very full people who waited for the end, that a good time was had by all!



VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE



But sometimes they need PANCAKES!

On Shrove Tuesday, the Choir took on one of its favorite projects—serving a pancake supper to the people of the parish and anyone else who wanted to join us. We also threw in a few Mardi Gras hats, masks and beads for good measure.

Shrove Tuesday in England was to clean out the pantry and eat all the rich foods—butter, syrup, eggs, bacon—before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Then they would serve meatless meals, without fancy trimmings for the 40 days of Lent (Sundays not counted!) Many folks came to St. Ann's Parish Hall to celebrate on Feb. 21st and

socialize with their fellow parishioners and their friends.

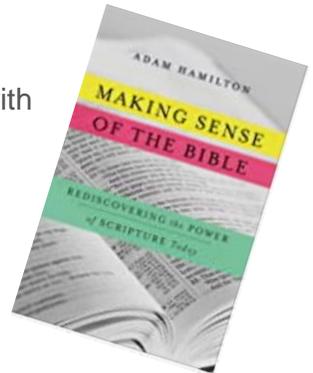


LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS STARTING WED, MARCH 1



Plan to join us on Wednesdays in Lent at 6:00 PM as we share fresh bread and hot soup. We invite all home chefs to cook up your favorite soups, stews, and chowders—sign-up sheet is posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board. Fun, fellowship, food—our favorite combination!

At 7:00 PM we'll put away the dishes and get down to our study program with Fr. Jeff. We'll be exploring the power of scripture using Adam Hamilton's **MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE**. Please feel free to join either every Wednesday or just occasionally--the series works both ways, and the soup is always delicious.



...and following Wednesdays March 8, 15 & 22.



SENIOR LUNCHEON - TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH

12:00 Noon

Get ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at this month's luncheon!

There will be a hearty Irish meal, festive decorations, and a talk by Fr. Jeff.

Wear something green and join us, and remember to bring donations for the Food Pantry.



St. Ann's Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you, team St. Ann's, for your participation in the Souper Bowl of Caring. You donated 60 cans of soup, 6 cans of beef chili and 10 boxes of crackers.

Our guests are grateful for your generous support.





IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 631-589-6522.



ANNIVERSARIES

1	William & Joyce Hamilton	15	Craig & Kristen LoNigro	30	Brian & Renee Chalmers
5	Kenneth & Linda Herbert	26	Edward & Deborah Schneider		

BIRTHDAYS



1	Peg Flanagan	12	Ashley Byrnes	17	Lori Svendsen	25	Ron Sanchez
	Mary Jean Lap-Bohanick	12	Edward Moran	19	Marade Bergen	26	Jill Hughes
3	Nancy Leuly	13	Lynne Abrams		Jason Cole	27	Marlena Espinoza
4	Sebastian Cole		Sally Stoll-DePompeo		Cynthia Houdek		Mary Mattarella
5	Brendan Mattimore		Luis Vasquez		Erin MacDonell		Joan Palmieri
6	Jared Bergen	14	Patrick Cavanagh		Judith Meyer	28	Victoria Barone
7	Ann Marie Hlavac	15	Meaghan Gandolfo		Karly Walch	28	Philip DePompeo
	Lauren Waters		Stephanie Gandolfo	23	Florence Chase		Eric Gustafson
	Miranda Waters		Taylor Whitehouse		Benjamin O'Connell	29	Robert Gaito
8	Jason Walsh	16	Robert Honey	24	Nicole LaFontaine	30	Jennifer Lasko

WHEN JESUS SAYS YOUR NAME

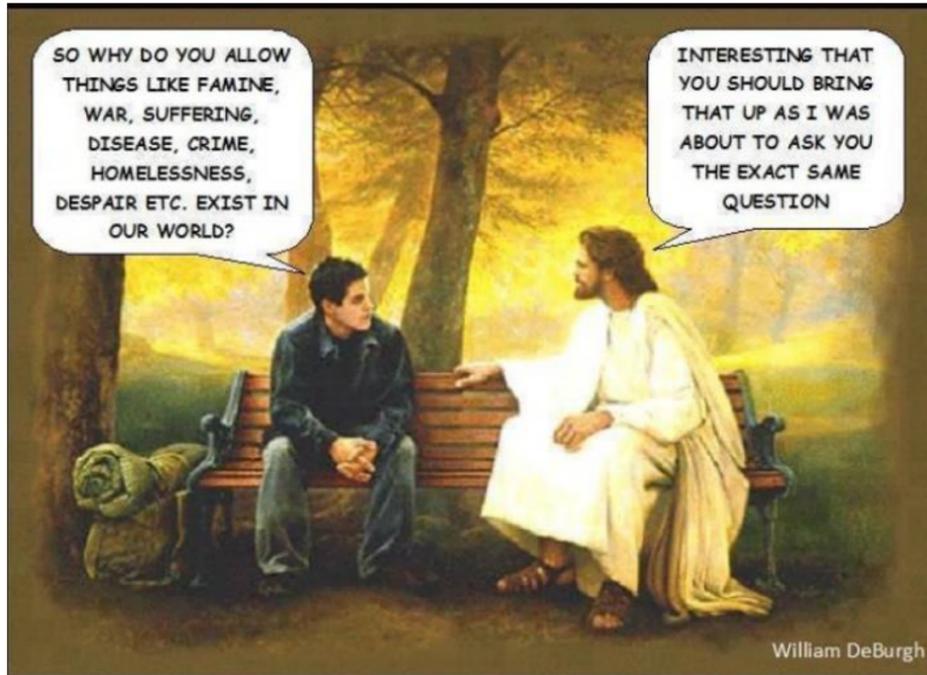
It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..." Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

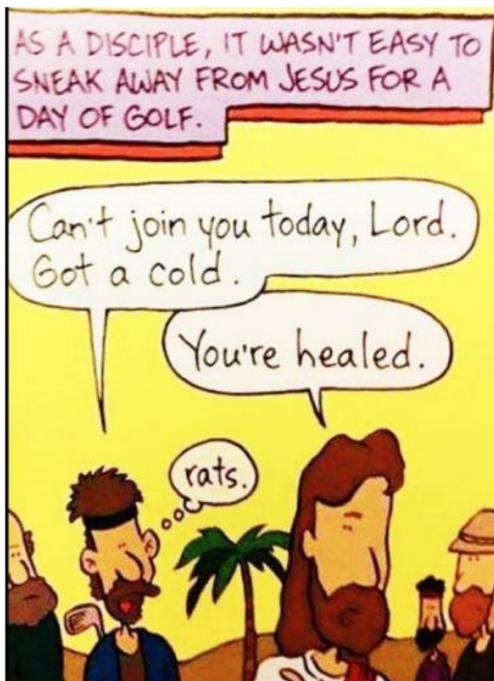
Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Memes of Wisdom for March



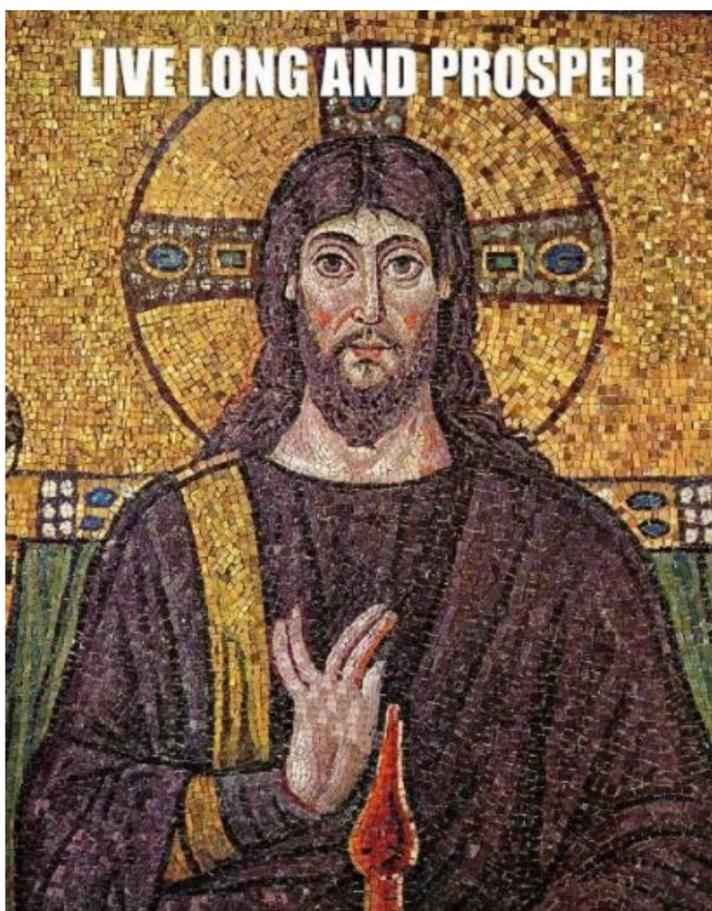
**This Lent, keep the chocolate and give up Bigotry, Judgment, Misogyny, Hatred, Bias, & Divisiveness!
Love God, Love your neighbor.
No Exceptions!**



If you can't figure out how to be kind, figure out how to be quiet.

@GroundedCrowing

Jesus drove a Honda but didn't talk about it.
"For I did not speak of my own accord" - John 12:49

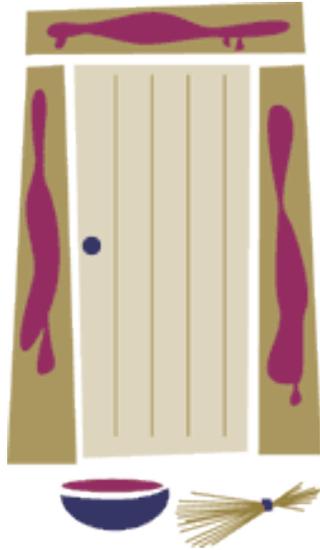


**JESUS: "TABLE FOR 26 PLEASE."
WAITER: "BUT THERE ARE ONLY 13 OF YOU."
JESUS: "YES, BUT WE ARE ALL GOING TO SIT ON THE SAME SIDE."**

EATLIVER.COM



+Christian Symbol+



DOORPOSTS

The image of a blood-marked doorframe is from the Passover account in Exodus. God directed the Israelites to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but the blood signaled that the Destroyer should “pass over” those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves us from eternal death.

AROUND SAINT ANN'S Monthly Schedule

See Email and Bulletin for changes/cancellations.
Check out the website at: www.saint-anns.org

Sundays

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM—Sunday School—During 10:00 service
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
7:30 PM—AA Meeting

Mondays

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—March 13
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Tuesdays

8:00 AM—Men's Group
7:00 PM—Adult Choir

Wednesdays

10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

Thursdays

10:00 AM—AA Meeting
10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Saturdays

10:00 AM-2:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

THE GOD WHO HIDES HIMSELF

Isaiah declares, “Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior” (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn't our knowing God the point? Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

“Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ,” said 20th-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “know how wonderfully God hides himself in this world and how he is closest precisely when we believe him to be most distant.” So, God assures us of his presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during his ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover him precisely where we need him most, and where others need us most.

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