



The Flame

Church of the Holy Spirit Quarterly Fall Newsletter for 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. MM+'s Musings
2. Deacon's Corner
3. CHS Social Life
 - a. Tuesdays at Panera
 - b. Men's Lunch Bunch
 - c. Ladies' Lunch
 - d. First Friday Lunch
 - e. Saturday Dinners
4. Parish Life
 - a. Bishop's Visit & Camp
 - b. Parade
 - c. Church Picnic
 - d. DOK Retreat
 - e. Fall Cleanup
5. Community & Outreach
 - a. Scouts' Court of Honor
 - b. Moving Veteran's Forward
5. Vestry Meeting Minutes
 - a. July
 - b. August
 - c. September
 - d. Finances

Mother Margaret's Musings

As October begins, we are trimming our homes with fall decorations. Maybe even cleaning out an attic or organizing a basement as this cooler weather comes.

I want to encourage you to be open to doing another type of organizing & cleaning. I would like you to include more prayer in your life. This request goes out also those of us who are praying daily. I'm asking all of us to increase the intensity of our prayers. We now find ourselves in a time where prayer is not only needed, but essential for ourselves and for those around us; family, friends, co-workers, neighbors-everyone! The needs are many. I have been offering prayer at each Mobile Food Pantry and although a few say they don't have any requests, the majority of the people in the cars are grateful for someone to offer this to them. Many have said the prayers are as needed as the food. The people who share with me how their prayers have been answered always lift up my heart and those who still have needs tell me they don't feel hopeless because they know someone cares. Imagine if more of us would extend our prayers to aid people who are feeling overwhelmed in this time of higher prices for things that we never even worried about before. Filling my tank used to cost \$32 and this week it was \$70. Just being aware of those around us at the gas station and saying a prayer for them in our hearts to have what they need is powerful. We may even find ourselves in a conversation where people are sharing their worries and you can assure them, they are in your prayers. This is our faith being present. Let every moment of your life be evidence of what you believe. What a beautiful way to live!!



Here are some Episcopal Prayers for your personal use over these next three months:

VETERAN'S DAY PRAYER: Gracious God, we give thanks for military men and women, both from the past and present, and for their courageous service and sacrifice to our country and its people to secure the blessings of life, liberty, and justice for all. May our remembrance be a timely reminder that our freedom was purchased at high cost and should not be taken for granted. Give us resolve to labor in faithful service to you until all share the benefits of freedom, justice, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER: Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

NEW YEAR'S DAY PRAYER: This day is a new day. That has never been before. This year is a new year, the opening door. Enter, Lord Christ, we have joy in Your coming. You have given us life; and we welcome Your coming. I turn now to face You, I lift up my eyes. Be blessing my face, Lord; be blessing my eyes. May all my eye looks on be blessed and be bright, my neighbors, my loved ones be blessed in Your sight. You have given us life and we welcome Your coming. Be with us, Lord, we have joy, we have joy. This year is a new year, the opening door. Be with us, Lord, we have joy, we have joy. *Amen.*

Beloved CHS Community,

Jim and I are so grateful for all of your prayers and support during this very sad time in our family with the pre-natal loss of our granddaughter, Ember Rain. It was a true grace for me to be able to hold her and be able to say "goodbye", along with the other grandmother. Our son Peter and Anela were so grateful for my presence. It was having the support of you and the Bishop that allowed me to be there to aid them during their time of immediate need. I will always remember this!

With blessings & love, Mother Margaret+

Deacon's Corner



Hello CHS Family,

September 6th marked my second anniversary as a deacon. I often think about my ordination day, and the memories come in beautiful flashes. I remember walking in and pausing to take in the undercroft—so beautifully decorated—and seeing the wonderful food being prepared to celebrate my new ministry. So many people attended, and so many more reached out through cards and messages.

I can still feel the Bishop's hands on my head, praying for the Holy Spirit to come and make me a deacon. I remember being vested and reminding myself, "The stole goes over the left shoulder... left, Terri, left."

I remember telling everyone present and watching online that my favorite way to see God is in how we love one another, that I felt loved, and that I thanked everyone for showing me God that night. I still feel that way every time I walk into 1305 Thomas Drive.

I knew the first year of my ministry would require me to stay close to the church. One person on my discernment committee mentioned that I could serve as a source of continuity while we were between rectors. While our wardens and vestry had the job of keeping the parish operating, I was happy to help ensure that pastorally, and in every other way, we continued to feel like the Church of the Holy Spirit. I hope I helped accomplish that goal.

During that first year, I didn't expect to lose three family members or to undergo two major surgeries myself, nor did I anticipate how long it would take my body to heal well into the second year. I also didn't expect to change jobs a couple of times, for my husband to need surgery, or for other family members to face major health crises during that second year. Through it all, however, I was never surprised by how quickly and lovingly you enveloped me in support. I am deeply grateful.

As I look forward to my third year, I am turning my focus outside our church walls to discern where God is calling me next. A deacon's ministry is truly to bring the church to the world and the world to the church—to be active in the community and interpret its needs. Deacons are called specifically to serve the poor, oppressed, sick, widowed, orphaned, and lonely. Perhaps that is why I have always been drawn to organizations like Magdalene Omaha, which supports survivors of human trafficking, and programs that feed the unhoused.

Recently, I have been learning more about seniors and the overwhelming needs of those who are isolated. I've researched local demographic and economic statistics regarding our senior population and explored the social challenges faced by those who live alone or who feel alone, even within assisted living communities.

I also plan to explore ministries started by other deacons to learn how their projects began, how they creatively mobilized volunteers, and how they accomplish their work with limited funding. Additionally, an initiative I envisioned at the clergy retreat in February has me working with the Diocese's Director of Communications to create a video recruiting new deacons statewide, which we hope will benefit other dioceses across the country as well.

I honestly do not know what my ministry will look like next year, in five years, or ten years down the road. I ask that you pray with me and for me as I listen for God's voice and align my actions with God's will. Being called to serve as a deacon is a source of continual joy and blessings, and I remain profoundly grateful for your love and support.

Peace,
Deacon Terri

CHS Social Life

Tuesdays at Panera

We gather for fellowship every Tuesday morning at the Cornhusker Panera. We start bright and early at 8am, or a little after then. Come join in the lively conversation!



Men's "Lunch Bunch"

Men from several churches gather every Wednesday at noon to share lunch. They rotate through different restaurants each week. If you are interested in joining, please contact Bill French or the church office.

(ating Out)



Ladies' Support Lunch



First Friday Lunch

Every 1st Friday of the month, come and bring your lunch and join us in fellowship. It's always a lot of fun!!





Saturday Dinners are after the 5pm service every week. Plan on joining us after worship. We decide as a group where we are going to eat. It could be one of our usuals; La Mesa, Spin Pizza, Romeo's, or a new place! We just had Indian cuisine in Omaha recently! We have a place saved for you!



Our Parish Life

The Bishop's Visit July 2026



Camp Canterbury 2026



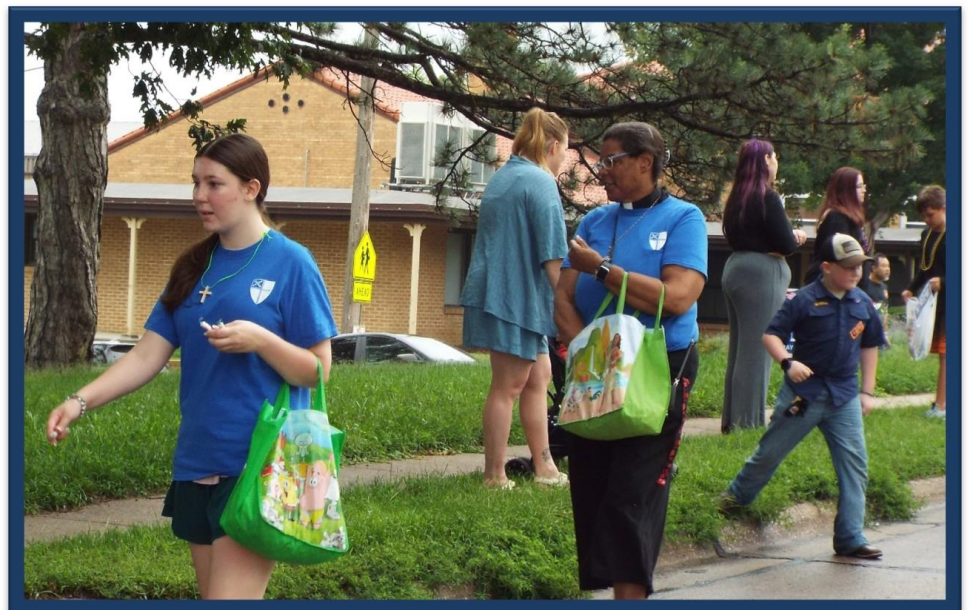
Arrows to Aerospace Parade August 2026



Riding on our
CHS Float



Mother Margaret &
Mackenzie handing out
candy.





The kids gave Mtr.
Margaret her CHS
baptism!



Church Picnic 2026





Service of Admission:

The new members of our St. Margaret Chapter of the Daughters of the King will have their Service of Admission on Sunday, October 11th at 9:30am Holy Eucharist.

We welcome our new Daughters:

Mother Margaret Brack, Margie Crawford, & Cammy Warbleton

Vision Statement of The Order

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world.



Daughters of the King Retreat
Carol Joy Holling Camp
September 12, 2026
St. Margaret Chapter Meeting



Fall Clean-Up 2026

It's dangerous work, Chris got stung
beautifying our property!



CHS Community & Outreach

Moving Veterans Forward (MVF)

I had the honor of getting to tour Moving Veterans Forward (MVF) which is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization in Papillion, Nebraska. Our parishioner Nancy Baxter is the CHS Ministry Leader with this Outreach and is the *Essentials Purchaser*. Being present there and hearing the stories of how they impact the lives of Veterans in need was so powerful and heartening. We are going to be accepting donations throughout October. The items we will be purchasing with the funds raised will be: Red Devil Vacuums, Crockpots in 4.5 & 6qt sizes and dinner plates. Also, if you have any small sized furniture in good condition to donate, they would be grateful. Please keep MVF Founder/President Ron Hernandez in your prayers for his health. His vision and dedication brought all of this to fruition. I also had a wonderful conversation with Joe Hunter, the MVF Executive Director/CEO. I look forward to our continued support of this important outreach ministry!



When Nebraska and Iowa homeless veterans are placed in housing by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs with nothing more than the clothes on their back, they need furnishings to make their apartment or house a home. MVF accepts donated furniture and household items from members of the public, they are placed in their warehouse. Accompanied by a counselor, veterans select the items they need and MVF volunteers deliver their chosen items to them on move-in day. Since 2018 the Church of the Holy Spirit has supported this endeavor by raising funds to buy the essentials identified. This ministry project takes place in the month of October. The list of items changes from year to year. MVF identifies essential items not available in their inventory and needed for a given year. Early on, only laundry and household cleaning products, paper products and hygiene items were needed. Over time other items such as small kitchen appliances and food preparation utensils, laundry baskets, blankets, winter socks, and gloves have been requested to meet Vets' essential needs. Due to the ever-changing nature of this ministry, cash (rather than item) donations are requested.

- In 2025, \$450 of the funds raised were used to purchase blankets, alarm clocks, 4-serving dishware sets, laundry and waste baskets. Ten or more veterans benefited from the essentials delivered.

Scout Troop 483

Court of Honor September 28, 2026



CHS VESTRY AGENDA
JULY 21, 2026 6:00 pm

OPENING PRAYER

-Devotional (Margie) -Proverbs 3:5-6, also prayers are asked for Fr. Theodore at St. Vincent's Orthodox Church. His wife passed away this week.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ken

-Budget vs Actual, year to date we are at 90% on pledge income. This is because of vacations & new people. Expenses vs income still negative.

-Change in Equity and Balance Sheet

-1/2 Of the sound system cost will come out of the Connelly Memorial Fund.

***M1** Accept the Treasurer's report. Judy motioned, Rick 2nd, passed unanimously.

***M2** Pay bills. Rick motioned, Josh 2nd, passed unanimously.

RECTOR'S REPORT

-CHS and Mtr Margaret will be helping a Scouting family that lost their father. CHS will host the reception and provide a space for a dinner fundraiser in the future.

-5 new people are coming to our church .

-Mother will meet with Ali to plan music that is easier for the congregation to sing.

-Mother is trying to coordinate visitations with LEM's

-Camp:

-Mother is disappointed our church only sent 1 child and 3 counselors. She is praying for more CHS participation next year.

-Mother led worship for the camp and was excited by the kids' participation.

-Isaiah Hagen and John Nelson were great leaders.

OLD BUSINESS

-Back Flow Inspection and repair and a kitchen sink leak were all repaired by Cerris. The cost of the repairs was \$2864.13 (the inspection was already paid earlier)

-North Door Security-The lock works (per locksmith) Judy explained how to make it work. Lock & unlock from the outside.

-Audio System Status: (Judy) Midwest Sound & lighting inc. has provided a quote of \$7528.50.

-Cross/Pulley System (Judy) –

1. A civil engineer came to evaluate hanging the cross over the altar again. This cost \$652.44.
2. Construction bid-KC Peterson Construction gave us a bid. suggest replacing the current system for \$1552.00. It will be stronger.
3. **M3**: Return cross to where it was for \$1552. Margie moved and Rick 2nd, passed unanimously.

-Mtr Margaret is still looking into having the paint removed from woodwork in the Administration Hallway.

-Scout Bulletin Board (Vince, Rick) – The bulletin boards have been moved to their new home near the television. Vince and Rick will have new information and pictures by September.

NEW BUSINESS

-VPOD Checklist: Josh has redesigned the checklist with bigger print & bigger check boxes. It is also more concise. Josh will send a copy to Judy.

-Foyer Slide Show: Josh will be creating a flash drive and back-up instead of the DVD player.

- For fire prevention, all doors in the Administrative wing must be closed before leaving. Many other details about the checklist discussed.

-Mobile Food Pantry (Judy)

1. Corey Hausman is no longer able to do food pantry.
2. Brian & Margie volunteered to take over as coordinators.
1. Office Supply Vendor (MM+) – TBD, will do comparative shopping.

VESTRY CONCERNS

1. Cindy: EfM classes upcoming
1. Josh: If internet stops, ask for level 2 technician & send me a text.
1. Kristi: Get the word out for doing our float, still need kids. Parade confirmation number needed from MM+.
1. Mtr Margaret+:
1. Photographer, Josh, need a back-up

2. Use sermons to instruct about eucharist
3. Fall historical tour of church
1. Margie: We love MM+ and need to have grace with one another
1. Judy: Prayer beads & ropes 9-12 with snacks (45min per speaker)

M4: Adjourn, Josh, Kristi & Judy, passed unanimously

CLOSING PRAYER –

Say 2 words, one for ourselves and one for the Vestry

M5 reopen to approve Margie, Judy, minutes, passed unanimously

M6 Kristi, Rick accept minutes, passed unanimously

M7 Kristi, Vince, re-adjourn, passed unanimously

CHS VESTRY AGENDA **August 13, 2026 6:30pm**

Attendance: Mtr. Margaret Brack, Judy Darrell, Ken Gomeringer, Brian Caskie, Rick Horejs, Margie Crawford, Kristi Smith, Vince Cummings, Marcia Adams, Josh Cain.

Opening Prayer: Mtr. Margaret

Finances: Delayed so Treasurer could arrive.

Old Business

Sound System: (Mtr. Margaret) The upgraded sound system is on track to be completed by Labor Day.

New Business

-HVAC Issues and Repairs: (Judy) Mark from Cerris will need to replace loose belts on the system. Will be done when the parts come in.

-Building Committee (Mtr. Margaret) Ed James has offered to help with building issues. Chris Darrell is training him.

-Key Control: (Ken) Ken is continuing to work on key control issues. Ken & Mtr. Margaret have decided to change the exterior locks to enhance security. Judy suggests waiting until the funds for this are available. Ken is working with Elmer's Locksmith.

-Church Picnic: (Judy) The picnic is on August 23, 2026 after the Youth Sunday service. Vince & Rick offered the scout's grill for cooking. Mtr. Margaret & Judy will bring condiments. The vestry will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Hub. This will be in the announcements.

-New Church Directory: (Mtr. Margaret) There will be a new church directory project. Photos will be taken on November 1-15th. No submitted photos will be accepted this year. The photo sessions will be in the bulletin & on the church website as the time gets closer. Josh will be taking the pictures with a solid background.

Treasurer's Report: Marcia

-The year-to-date budget variance is 93%

-Admin expenses \$250, Building & Grounds spending was normal.

-Changes in Equity:

-Dcn. Ted asked that his education fund be moved to the Altar Guild. Will be in the Acolyte Fund because Altar Guild doesn't have a fund. Other money from Ted's sabbatical & development fund will go back into the budget.

-Memorial Funds with \$0 balance will be removed from the system at the end of the year.

Balance Sheet:

-\$224,89.02 in net cash assets, \$24,608.68 in Unrestricted Funds, \$112,680.29 in temporary funds, \$37,114.82 restricted funds, \$806,346.12 endowment.

-The sprinkler system was paid for at the end of July which is why we have so much in outstanding checks.

There was discussion about whether to pay the full diocesan asking & availability of funds. They will consider revising the budget and pay the full asking since we are able.

-M08.13.26.01: Rick motioned and Vince 2nd to accept the treasurer's report. Passed Unanimously.

-M08.13.26.02: Josh motioned and Rick 2nd to pay the bills. Passed Unanimously.

Marcia still needs the key to the finance cabinet. Deacon Terri will provide one.

Mtr Margaret Rector's Report:

-Continuing to work on formatting bulletins

- Assistant has a weekly task chart. Please ask to be added if you need something.
- Mtr Margaret is training Sam to empty the dishwasher.
- We will be hosting the Clericus meeting on August 27th. She is asking for volunteers who would like to serve pancakes to the participants.
- The next quarterly Flame will be focused on our social groups. This will also include the parade and the picnic.
- Asking someone to write a short Flame article about being on the vestry.
- Proud to speak at the diocesan event about how nice this vestry is.
- Day Skyes program will be using the classrooms again during the week for 2 youth.

Other Vestry Concerns:

- Marcia said we may not do Octoberfest this year due to dwindling numbers and rising food prices. Vestry and Mtr. Margaret will brainstorm ideas for an additional fellowship event during the year.
- Margie asked the vestry to consider holding a Small Business Sunday.
- Kristi discusses preparing for the upcoming Arrows to Aerospace parade. She asks for more volunteers.
- Judy said the budget requests will be coming out soon for each of the ministries. Each vestry member needs to follow up on their ministries to turn them in.
- Annual Council details were discussed.
- There was discussion about the importance of community engagement and the positive impact of the church's activities.

M08.13.26.03: Vince motioned and Rick 2nd to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously.

VESTRY MINUTES September 24, 2026

Attendance: Vince Cummings, Rick Horejs, Ken Gomeringer, Judy Darrell, Margie Crawford, Kristi Smith, Josh Cain, Brian Caskie, Mtr. Margaret Brack, Cindy Pekarek (Recorder)

Opening prayer: (Sr. Warden)-Judy Darrell led the vestry in opening prayer.

Finance reports: (Ken)

1. Budget vs Actual. Copier fees appear to be greater than expected. Mother Margaret will be checking if the numbers are accurate. We finished paying off Eakes for the last copier this month. Year to date we are \$7000 behind on the estimated budget. Next quarter typically shows an increase to our offering and pledge amounts. Operating expenses: \$22,380, budgeted: \$20,557
2. Change in Equity: pd \$2000 on MM+'s loan, Money moved from Rector's discretionary savings in the checking. \$500 was added to the deacon's discretionary fund. Need to ask special memorial families if the funds can be moved to the general memorial fund.
3. Balance Sheet: Total cash assets: \$212,049; Net cash assets \$209,045; \$3000 in outstanding checks as of August 31st. Endowment increased by \$8100 in August.

M09-24-2026-01 Kristi motioned and Ken 2nd to accept the budget. Passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. HVAC repair is complete.
2. Building manager: Ed James has decided to take on grounds commission instead of the building. Sam & Patrick have decided to take on the building commission. Chris & Dean will continue being resources.
3. Key and Lock replacement. (Ken): \$1200 just to change the exterior locks. Waiting on September financials before moving forward on this.
4. New Directory photo sessions. (Josh) The sessions will be on Sundays; November. 1st, 8th, & 15th. Time will also be set aside before Saturday services from 4-5pm.
5. Sound System complete. (MM) We have had comments saying they can hear everything now.
6. Octoberfest is cancelled for this year. Other fellowship opportunities will be explored. We will still be doing Trunk or Treat. Logistics for the parking lot & inside games discussed.

New Business:

1. Vestry dates for 2027. (JD) Mother has a conflict with the 3rd Thursday of the month. Vestry discussed moving Vestry to Wednesday of the same week. Judy will send out a schedule for Vestry meetings for 2027. Final schedule to be approved later.
2. Vestry positions vacant for 2027. We have 2 open vestry positions. Rick & Vince have finished their terms. There will be an announcement to the church during services.
3. Discretionary Fund Policy Development:
 - A formal written policy is being developed to ensure compliance with canons.
 - Future distributions must utilize case numbers for anonymity while maintaining a paper trail for audits.
 - New guidelines will address limits on gift card amounts and frequency of assistance per individual.
 - A proposed "vestry fund" may be created to allow broader utility than the strictly regulated discretionary fund. A vote by email after the meeting passed.
 - Budgetary Corrections: The finance team must reimburse the discretionary fund from the general budget for expenses that should have been covered by specific budget lines.
4. HS financial policy concerning Discretionary Fund.(JD) We will be forming better financial policy that is in accordance with the Episcopal Canons.
5. Day Skyes is using the building every day from 9-3pm and evenings in the library at 6pm.

M09-24-2026-02: Josh moved, Vince 2nd to accept the minutes from August's Vestry meeting. Passed unanimously.

M09-24-2026-03: Vince motioned and Josh 2nd to pay the bills. Passed unanimously.

Rector's Report: (MM+)

- Margaret presented a proposal for upgrading office hardware, specifically requesting new monitors and keyboards due to current equipment failure and eye strain issues. A vote on this expenditure will be deferred until next month's meeting as it was not currently budgeted.
- A new large-print bulletin format is being implemented to improve readability for parishioners.
- CHS was acknowledged by the Nebraska Employment Program for People with Disability.
- The office hours will adjust slightly following Sam's employment through vocational rehabilitation programs. The office will be closed on Columbus and Veteran's Days.
- This Sunday Mother Margaret & Deacon Terri will be providing instruction about our services during.
- Mother Margaret notified the vestry of 2 Sundays in November when she will be gone. Fr. Bob Schlissinger will be our supply priest.

M09-24-2026-04: Kristi motioned and Ken 2nd to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Next Vestry Meeting: November 12, 2026 at 6:00pm.

Upcoming VPoD for October 4th – November 8th, 2026: