



The Flame

April 2022

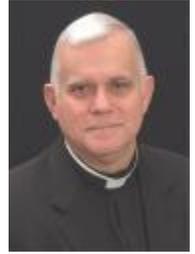
Our Mission is to be a welcoming place where people meet Christ and grow in their relationship with God through our worship, service, and fellowship.



Holy Week is just around the corner. This year, we will offer the full array of services we did before the pandemic, and we pray that as many of us as possible will be able to not only join us for worship, but will also invite a friend, or a family member, to come along with them. Holy Week often places a great demand on our various ministry teams. If you would like to know how you can help, please contact the church office and we will help you make the connection to a ministry team that touches your heart and your passion. Below is a list of service times for Holy Week. Services to be broadcast live online are highlighted in red.

Palm Sunday	5:00 pm (in the Chapel) 8:00 am (in the Chapel) 9:30 am (in the Sanctuary)
Holy Monday	Noon (in the Chapel)
Holy Tuesday	Noon (in the Chapel)
Holy Wednesday	9:30 am (in the Chapel) 7:00 pm (Stations of the Cross with Youth Group) 7:30 pm Prayer and Group discussion 8:00 pm (Compline online)
Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm (soup supper and service in the parish hall) 8:00 pm – 11:00 am (Prayer Vigil in Chapel) Please sign up for one or more one-hour time slots
Good Friday	Noon (in the sanctuary) 6:30 pm (in the sanctuary)
Easter Vigil	6:30 pm (in the Sanctuary) Bring a bell to ring
Easter	8:00 am (in the chapel) 9:30 am (in the Sanctuary) 10:45 am (Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt)

Fr. Tom's Tidbits



This month, I had intended on sharing some of the comments left by members of our parish with regards to our Lenten challenge to create silence in our lives in order to hear how we might best share God's love, both as individuals and as a community. Sadly, I have not received the number of inputs I had hoped for. I am not sure if it is because we can't think of what we might do, or if we are so overwhelmed by the events taking place in the world, we can't hear God.

It has been just over a month since Russia invaded Ukraine. What was expected to be a quick and decisive action by Russia, has turned into a bloody, yet valent effort by the people of Ukraine to preserve their freedom. People seeing this happen are torn between standing with them in their fight or standing behind them in support of their efforts. If we stand with them, we chance another world war, the likes of which will be so much more destructive and life altering than the last, as the weapons now available have such wide and long-lasting effects. The loss of innocent lives would be almost unimaginable and the damage we would do to our fragile eco-system could be so devastating, the balance needed to sustain life might be irreversible. On the other hand, if we stand behind them, offering the help they need to defend themselves, the loss of life, while on a smaller scale, is just as alarming; and the destruction, while more localized, will still impact all of our lives in ways that can be life altering.

I don't profess to have an answer on what we should do. Part of me wants to stand with the people of Ukraine, despite the risk, because it is the right thing to do; and part of me knows that supporting them in their fight can be equally right, because of the risk. I am glad I am not the one who must decide, and I pray for those who must make the tough decisions before us, hoping that with God's help, humanity can find a way forward that brings peace to our troubled world. In the meantime, while there is no question that Russia bears responsibility for the death and destruction taking place, we all bear some of the responsibility. Our inability to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to respect the dignity of every human being, has led to divisions so wide, they are unbridgeable by human means.

Sadly, this is not just a global problem, it can be a local trouble as well. For instance, there are political, theological, and environmental divides here in our community. We are no different than any other community in this respect. Thankfully, they have not destroyed our relationships, we still appear able to respectfully disagree. But, if these divides should widen, if we no longer find ourselves able to see Christ in one another, the effects of the resulting explosion would be as life altering as any war. This is true for any community, be it the one inside the four walls of our building, the surrounding neighborhood, our city of Bellevue, the state of Nebraska, or even across the United States.

We must continue to strive to seek and serve Christ in one another and respect the dignity of every human being if we are to know peace, in our hearts, in our homes, our nation, and in the world. We can be the light in the world that shows others the way to know peace in their lives as well. The good news is we do not have to try and do this on our own. As our baptismal covenant reminds us, we do this with God's help.

Father Tom

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**

Parish Life

Shrove Tuesday

Our Shrove Tuesday dinner was a huge success. Special thanks to the Daughters of the King who prepared our meal and cleaned up afterwards. We would also like to thank all those who brought last year's palms back to the church to be burned and used as replacement ashes for next year's Ash Wed services.



Ash Wednesday



Special shout out to our youth group who served an excellent soup supper on Ash Wednesday and who then joined us for worship. It was such a pleasure to see their smiling faces, and their energy helped lift an otherwise solemn day. While our in-person attendance was not what it was pre-pandemic, most were able to join us in-person or online to begin the Lenten Season together. To those who volunteered their time and talents to make our worship possible and meaningful, thank you very much.

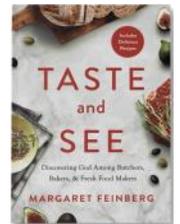


Lenten Soup Supper & Study

As we enter April, the last two Sunday evening Soup and Study are before us. Finishing up on Palm Sunday (10 Apr) we have enjoyed exploring how food, described in the bible, has been such a part of community life; and we have enjoyed numerous tasty treats along the way thanks to all



those who brought soup, breads, and desserts. We also enjoyed a few unexpected treats recommended in the study materials. Along the way, we have learned some new recipes, and on our last night we will share some of our favorite recipes as well. It is not too late to join us. Dinner begins at 5:00pm, we clean-up at 5:30, and begin our study video and discussion at 5:45 so that we can finish up with Compline by 7:00pm.



DOK Day of Prayer

Lenten Labyrinth Day

The Daughters of the King chapter used the church's 27-foot square labyrinth for their Lenten Quiet Day. With subdued lighting and meditation music playing in the background, several members of the chapter walked the indoor labyrinth.



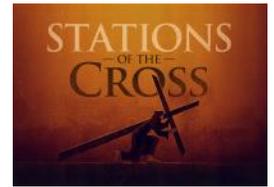
Foods of Jesus's Time

Each Palm Sunday Christian Education presents the foods that were eaten 2000 years ago in the middle east. This is a reminder that Jesus had come to Jerusalem celebrate the Passover while knowing what awaited him. It also shows what is still eaten and lets people taste new foods. Some of our offering include lamb meatballs, leeks, dates, figs, grapes, olives, and flat bread. Everyone is invited to join us in the "upper (class) room." We do ask you sign-up in the book at the Spirit Hub so we have enough food.



Holy Wednesday

On Holy Wednesday, besides our regular morning service, we will also offer a prayer service during which we will walk the stations of the cross beginning at 7:00pm. This is a regular service our Journeys youth share in during Holy Week and they are inviting members of the



parish, and especially those who are volunteering to help support the services of the Triduum, to join them as together we prepare our hearts for these three holy days. Following this service, participants are invited to gather in prayer and meditation in a small group setting. At 8:00pm, everyone will then gather in the parish hall to share in our weekly Lenten Meditation. Please mark your calendars, and join our youth on this special night of prayer.

Maundy Thursday Vigil

On Maundy Thursday (14 Apr) we will once again hold our annual soup supper and service in the parish hall. A sign-up sheet is available at the Spirit Hub for those who may wish to bring a soup, bread, or dessert item. Our worship on this night is a little different, as we prepare our hearts for Good Friday. Following the service, we will hold an all-night prayer vigil in the chapel where the reserve sacrament will rest in a garden assembled by our altar guild. Our vigil will begin at 8:00pm and continue until 11:00am the next morning (Good Friday). On the night our Lord was handed over to suffering and death, he asked his disciples to stay awake and pray with him. We, like the disciples, are invited to do the same. Please sign-up at the Spirit Hub to let us know which hour (or hours) you can sit with our Lord in prayer. For those unable to join us Thursday evening, we will try to broadcast the altar of repose via Facebook live between 9-11pm, and again between 8-10am on Friday morning.



Parish Out Reach

Red Cross Blood Drive



Due to unexpected staff shortages, our blood drive last month was cancelled by the local Red Cross office. We are working to reschedule another opportunity to give in the near future. In the meantime, please prayerfully consider contacting the Red Cross to find out how you might meet their current needs.

Friends of Tamar in-gathering

Thank you to all who donated items and funding in support of the Friends of Tamar Pantry. Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of women who are in need. In addition to the many items donated, between our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and gifts given in lieu of items, we raised an additional \$765. While we offer two collections each year in support of this ministry, you may make a donation at any time to this essential diocesan ministry by simply noting Tamar Pantry in the memo line of your check. All funds received will be forwarded to Magdalene House and this ministry quarterly.



Parish Out Reach Continued

Mobile Pantry

Our Mobile Pantry at the end of last month was another success. Using the drive-through model, we again gladly served those in our local community who are facing varying degrees of food insecurity. The mobile pantry has been an ongoing ministry of ours for over 10 years. Where once we were the only one serving the Sarpy County area, we now



find others who have stepped up to serve, making it possible for someone in need to find a distribution taking place almost every week of the year in Sarpy County. Do you know someone who needs help? If so, please pass on the following link to Foodbank for the Heartland (<https://foodbankheartland.org/food-resources/find-food>). All they need do is enter their zipcode to find a pantry near them

Youth Activities

Annual Palm Folding Event



Please mark your calendars and plan to join our Journeys youth on Wednesday (6 Apr) to help fold palm crosses for Palm Sunday. We are blessed to once again have Ms Jean Cook come and work with the youth during this annual event. Her simple instruction and steady encouragement provide our youth everything they need to quickly become amazing palm folders. By the end of the evening, there are often races to see who can fold the fastest and best looking cross. This event is open to all members of the parish.

Easter Sunday Egg Hunt

We are excited to share that our outdoor Easter Egg hunt will return this year. Following our 9:30am service (weather permitting) parish youth will be invited to search the grounds for tasty treats. This year, we will offer youth an added opportunity to share the blessings they discover. Some of the eggs will be filled with gold coins (plastic gold that is) and youth will be invited to drop their coins into one of the boxes to be provided. Each box will be labeled with a local Bellevue charity and youth will receive a treat for each coin they give. A donation of \$20 per coin will be made to the local ministry for each coin dropped its box.



Youth Activities Continued

Youth Sunday

On the Sunday after Easter (24 Apr) we will once again celebrate Youth Sunday. On Youth Sunday, parish youth are invited to take over for the adults sharing their love for the Lord in sometimes new and exciting ways. They will be in charge, and this year, we will enjoy hearing God's message through the voice of one of our older youth. This has always been a day in the life of our community when we have rejoiced in the gift God gives to us through our youth. I suspect this year will be equally blessed.



Journeys Crossings

On Wednesday (27 Apr) our Journeys youth group will hold their end of year service. This service celebrates their passage from youth to young adult offering prayers for those who move from one group to the other, and for those heading off to college. There will be a shared meal beginning at 6:30pm and the service will begin at 7:00pm. All members of the parish are invited to join in the festivities.

Join Us in Children's Ministry

We need your help! While our team works hard to meet the needs of our youth, we could really use your help as we close out this program year and prepare for our summer and fall programs. Below are some ways you can help us make our younger youth ministry so much more enjoyable and meaningful for our youth. For specifics on anything listed below, please contact Cindy Pekarek, Jean Cook, or call the office. Some descriptions are on the bulletin board in the hall. We know no list is all inclusive. If you have an idea of how we might improve, or you have a talent you would like to share, please let us know. We would love to have you help as you can, be it once a week, once a month, or once a year.

Small ways (Things that can be done once or as often as you wish)

- Help by reading a bible story during Sunday School.
- Come pray The Lord's Prayer with our youth during Sunday school.
- Join us to sing songs or play hand bells during Sunday School or VBS.
- Help us keep our bulletin boards eye catching and current.
- Help occasionally sort beads, felt, and other small collections as needed.
- Help by putting together Ziploc bags of simple crafts (like Rosary Beads).
- Help us design a logo for this year's Vacation Bible School.



Larger ways (Things that require a small amount of commitment).

- Help us keep our children's Sunday baskets fresh (supplies/coloring pages provided).
- Help us create VBS props or by planning or providing help with VBS snacks
- Help with our nativity play set-up, tear down, or costumes.
- Help us get the word out about Children's Ministries and events

Huge ways (Huge in the impact each offers)

- Become a teacher's assistant during Sunday School (one Sunday a month or more)
- Help us by being an adult volunteer during VBS.
- Help organize craft supplies and teaching aids in or storage room, attic, and Cindy's office.



EARTH CARE CORNER

By Virginia Babcock

SLIP KNOTS

I speak now
Of a time of unraveling:
The mother bear who abandons
Her cubs; the ice pack melting.
The now-year-round fire season
In the west;
The typhoons and tsunami
Of Japan-
 Pipe bombs
And backpacking suicide bombers,
Breaking their parents' hearts;
The rise against
Islam; our blindness to
The failed dreams, fear and famine
Of others in the world;
Hegemony without compassion,
Deadly force against people of color:
Things unraveling. We want
Order rather than chaos;
A move back to the
"Good old days" My heart
 Breaks, and I
Don't know whether to laugh or cry:
Just pray. Pray. Reach out
And embrace the broken.
Pray.

By Christopher Kuhl

Collect of War Time

(Written after a theological reflection on WAR, especially in the Ukraine)

Dear God of Peace, Love and Justice for all,
In you, we put our trust.
Empower us to put our hope in your goodness and mercy.
We pray that you can open the hearts and minds of the world's leaders to stop war and bring peace and unity
among the nations,
So that our world may glorify your Son our Savior Jesus Christ and rest in your peace.
Amen.

By EFM (Education for Ministries) ,Cindy Pekarek and Ruth Richter

Church of the Holy Spirit 2022 Vestry

Senior Warden:



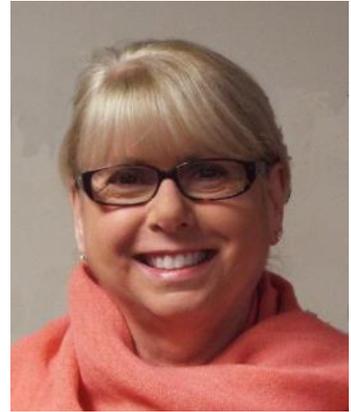
Ken Gomeringer

Junior Warden:



Michele Hagen

Clerk:



Leslie Nutting



Cindy Pekarek



Judy Darrell



Kristi Smith



Margie Crawford

Treasurer



Lori Erickson

Recorder



Marcia Adams



Carol McLaughlin

Vestry Meeting Minutes March 17, 2022

Vestry Members present: Fr. Tom Jones, Kristi Smith, Michele Hagen, Judy Darrell, Ken Gomeringer, Lori Erickson.

Also present: Marcia Adams, Treasurer and Carol McLaughlin, Recorder

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM with prayer.

TEACHING / STUDY:

None this month

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Marcia Adams

Budget vs. Actual: Actual total contribution income was \$15,917. Year to date total income is at 110%. Some budget expenditures explained including computer equipment charges, inflated gas prices, double payments (2 months) on Fr. Tom's health insurance and cell phone. Total operating expenses for the month were \$17,198. Total income \$15,947. Excess income vs. Expenses was -\$1,250.

Changes in Equity: Expenses included funeral expense of \$125, Oktoberfest expense of \$890, Rector discretionary \$122 (for family assistance). Also, CHS Grants (Endowment Fund) \$640 (for upgraded microphones). Memorial fund expenses totaling \$6,021 were all for handbells. Endowment fund went negative -\$7,528 due to stock market fluctuation.

Balance Sheet: Net cash assets \$221,794. Total available assets are \$678,807.

Motion M03-17-01: Judy moved that we accept the reports as presented. Ken seconded. Approved.

Motion M03-17-02: Lori moved that we pay the bills. Judy seconded. Approved.

There were no designated funds expenditures this month.

INFORMATION / UPDATES:

Fr. Tom went over the scheduled events on the calendar for the next month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Vestry retreat follow-up. Fr. Tom asked for input from Vestry members on the recent retreat. The reviews were generally positive in that the material presented and discussed was interesting and helpful, and that the beginnings of a plan are in place as a result.

Holy Week Services: We will be returning to the services as we did before the pandemic. Fr Tom went over the schedule of all services, as well as readers, greeters, ushers and hospitality team members needed. Maundy Thursday will include dinner followed by a service in the Parish Hall.

Vestry book study: Fr. Tom proposed a study of a book he is reading as a part of the Ministry Leadership class he is taking. It is titled "Unconnected: How to Engage the Unchurched, Disconnected, and Spiritually Indifferent". Members present agreed with this book study; Fr. Tom will order the books.

Streaming services: Members are asked to help look into any options for streaming services that will work for our church. Fr. Tom so far has not found any that are appropriate for our needs beyond Facebook.

Fr. Tom handed out copies of an article titled "Top 8 Steps to Prepare Your Church for Easter" and led a discussion on several of the points raised in the article.

Fr. Tom asked members if they had any further discussion items. Michele proposed that we return to the tradition of baking Hot Cross Buns. This would be done on Good Friday and if we can get enough kitchen help that morning we will plan it. Carol asked if she should reschedule the blood drive that was cancelled by the Red Cross last month. Fr. Tom feels that we should do this so Carol will contact the Red Cross to get it scheduled for after Easter.

DECISION ITEMS:

Fr. Tom did not send out last month’s Vestry meeting minutes for approval prior to publishing. He handed out a copy of the February minutes. **Motion M03-17-03:** Judy moved that we accept the minutes as presented. Lori seconded the motion. Approved. **Motion 03-17-04:** Judy moved that we approve the minutes as published. Lori seconded the motion. Approved.

Motion M03-17-05: Fr. Tom made a motion to move \$15,150 from the Endowment Fund to the CHS Grant Fund. These were the grants approved at last month’s Vestry meeting. Michele Hagen seconded the motion. Approved. Marcia will initiate this transfer.

Motion M03-17-06: Lori moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ken seconded the motion. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm. Next regular meeting of the Vestry will be April 21, 2022.

Holy Week Ministries

Ministries	April 14 Maundy Thursday	April 15 Good Friday	April 16 Easter Vigil
Hospitality Team 9:30 am Greeters, Ushers & Coffee Hour Host	6:30 pm Usher – Doug C Greeter - Deanne M	Noon Ushers - Lora C Greeter - Bill F 6:30 pm Usher - Chris D Greeter - Pam & Doug C	6:30 pm Usher - Chris D & Doug C Greeter - Bill F
Altar Guild	6:30 pm Charlotte, Joan, Leslie, Sharon Re-Set Leslie, Joan, & Carol	Noon Leslie 6:30 pm Sharon	6:30 pm Leslie & Joan
LEMS	6:30 pm LEM - Charlotte A, Readers - Doug A, Jan S, Michele H, Lori E.	Noon – Alberta Y 6:30 pm LEMs – Michelle H & Terri S Readers – Chris & Judy D	6:30 pm LEM – Jan S. Readers – Chris D, Michele H

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of February 28, 2022

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 15,072.00	\$ 16,704.42	\$ 35,634.00	\$ 33,408.83
Other Inc.	\$ 875.66	\$ 1,457.33	\$ 4,477.71	\$ 2,914.67
Total Inc	\$ 15,947.66	\$ 18,161.75	\$ 40,111.71	\$ 36,323.50
Expenses	\$ 17,198.00	\$ 18,873.83	\$ 33,320.27	\$ 37,747.67
Balance			\$ 6,791.27	



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!

- April 6** - Make Palm Crosses - 7:00
- April 9** - Parish Clean-up Day
- April 10** - Palm Sunday
- April 10** - Foods of Jesus time
- April 14** - Maundy Thursday
- April 15** - Good Friday
- April 16** - Easter Vigil
- April 17** - Easter Sunday
- April 18** - Office Closed
- April 21** - Vestry meeting
- April 23** - Mobile Pantry 10am - 11:30am
- April 24** - Youth Sunday



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

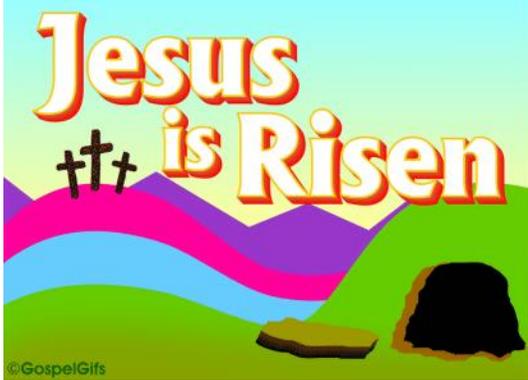
Ministries	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	April 30
VPOD	Judy D	Leslie N	Lori E	Kristi S	
Hospitality Team 9:30 am Greeters ,Ushers & Coffee Hour Host	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1	Team 2	
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	
Altar Bread	-	-	Jennifer W	Jennifer W	
Recycle Team	Jan S	Marcia A	Lynda W	Karen G	
LEM Saturday 5:00	Alberta Y	Charlotte A	Kristi S	Charlotte A	Kristi S
LEM Sunday 8:00 am	Rick S	Doug A	Rick S	Doug A	
LEM Sunday 9:30	Terri S Michele H	Ken G Jennifer W	Michele H Vince C	Anika S Lex G	
Acolytes Crucifer Torch Torch	Isaiah H Kyper M Ailynn M	William R Olivia H	Emily W Vincent C Evelynn C	Anika S	



*Please submit articles for the
May2022 FLAME to the
church office by April 18th.
Thank you*



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Regular Services:

Sunday: 8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II *
Wednesday: 9:30 am Holy Eucharist *
Saturday: 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist
* Broadcast live on Facebook

Education:

Sunday: Sunday School @ 10:30 am
(September-May)
Wednesday: Bible Study @ 10:15 am
Journeys to Adulthood @ 6:30 pm

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am–3:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am–Noon

Rector’s Day Off:

Friday

The Flame is a monthly production of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, in Bellevue, Nebraska. We welcome all stories, pictures, and suggestions, but must reserve the right to choose what we can print. Please send articles and pictures to CHS Admin at holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org. The next deadline for submitting news is April 18th.

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org

Email: holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org

The Flame
Newsletter of The Church of the Holy Spirit - Episcopal
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