



# The Flame

October 2023

**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.

## Horseback Ride

We had one of the best days for a horseback ride that we have had in several years, not too hot, just enough breeze to keep mosquitos and the flies away, and a crowd of enthusiastic riders. This was also the first year in a very long time, when everyone got to ride at the same time. We had 18 riders this year and everyone said they had a great time. After the ride, we headed up to our campfire where we enjoyed roasting hot dogs and then S'Mores. Thanks to the volunteers who came to the ranch and helped organize the meal. As we were packing up, a few rain drops let us know the expected storms were on their way. We were able to clean up, pack up, and head home before the rain really began to come down. Watch the calendar for next year's dates so that you can join our youth for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.



## Fr. Tom's Tidbits



Our parish fall program is in full swing. Last month we enjoyed some really great times, and this month we have even more opportunities to come together, not only to have a good time, but to also deepen our relationships with God and one another. I hope you enjoy reading about what we did and what is to come in this month's issue. While October has always been a month of excitement for our parish, it has also been the month we reflect on who we are and what we do. This work began with our ministry team leader meeting last month, and it continues as the vestry begins to put together a budget both to support the work of our ministries and to meet our fiscal obligations.

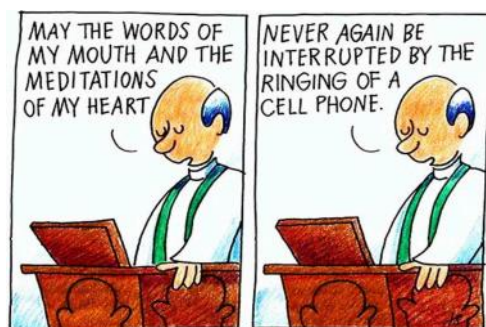
Blessed by the generosity of those who call CHS their church home, we have been able to make a difference in the community we serve, both inside and outside our parish building. Our hope and prayer is to continue this effort in the coming year. Each year, as our plan comes together, we face many challenges. As you will read later in this issue, most challenges can be overcome by working together, doing what we can to further the work we are called to do, sharing the love of God along the way. In this issue, you will note there are different ways we can help, and that there are varying degrees of need.

While we know that everyone cannot do everything, we pray that everyone will do something. God has entrusted us with time, talents, and treasure to do the work asked of us. Giving as we can, in each of these ways, strengthens the community, enabling us to do more and reach further in our efforts, to bring the love of God to those who need to know, it is more than just a hope, it is real, and in its embrace, we can know a joy that will support us through any struggle we encounter.

How might we use what God has given us? Our Catechism provides us with an answer. On page 856 in the Book of Common Prayer, we learn that "it is the duty of all Christians to follow Christ, to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God". Following Jesus, means to live in accordance with his teaching and example. Coming together week by week, helps us to find strength and renewal in community, countering the attempts of worldly pressures that seek to divide us, even isolate us. As we work, pray, and give, we deepen our relationships, both with God and those around us. Paul is clear, alone we can only do only so much; but together, in community, with God's help, we can do so much more than we ever imagine.

As our parish and community needs come before you, please prayerfully consider how you are able to help us meet them. For those who already do so much, thank you. I know with your continuing support we will further the work of the church. For those who struggle to know how they might help, I invite you to pray; for it is in prayer we encounter the Holy Spirit who guides us along the path we are to follow. That path will not be the same for all, but it will guide all in our efforts to accomplish the same mission, and to lead all to the place where God's love, shared and experienced, changes lives.

*Father Tom*





# Parish Life

## New Organist

This month, we welcome Grace Roby, our new church organist. Grace comes to us after serving as the summer organist for St. Luke's in Plattsmouth. Growing up in the Episcopal Church, Grace's familiarity with our hymnal, coupled with her youthful view of the importance music holds in our worship, will not only be a blessing to our community, but just might offer us an opportunity to take a new and maybe different approach to this aspect of our worship.



## Pet Blessings



On Sunday (1 Oct), beginning at 2pm, we will hold our annual service for the blessing of the animals. Weather permitting, we will hold our service on the Victoria St lawn under the big oak tree. Following the service, we will have treats for our guests and their human partners. For their safety, please ensure all guests are on a leash or in a carrier.

## Annual Pledge Drive

As October begins, so too does our annual pledge drive. This year, our Vestry asks that we all prayerfully consider increasing the level of our current financial support by 5%. Based on the average pledge amount, if each family could give, or increase their giving, by just \$13 each month, we would be able to meet all of our projected 2024 expenses. Your Vestry knows this is asking a lot, considering the current economy, and remains grateful for any level of increase we

are able to provide. If you are able, and if you are not currently making a pledge to financially support our shared ministry, please consider doing so. It is only as we work together, sharing out of our blessings, are we able to make the difference we strive to in the lives of those we serve, both inside and outside the parish family.



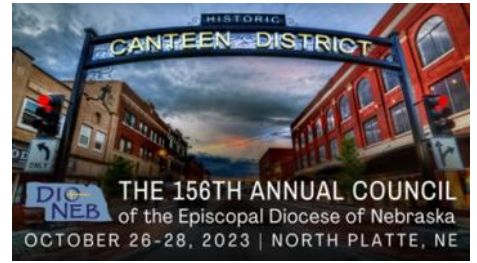
Do you have your tickets yet? It is once again time for our annual adults only night of good food, fund games, and prizes. On Friday (20 Oct) beginning at 7:00pm, CHS will offer guests five different samplings of German inspired foods and beverages (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic).

In between rounds, we will play some bingo and tackle some trivia. This event typically sells out, so please pick up or reserve your seat quickly by visiting with Sharon Jones, or by calling the church office. Ticket sales end and reservations close Monday (16 Oct) to allow our teams time to plan accordingly. The cost for this event is \$12.50 per person.



## Annual Council

In just a few short weeks, our Diocese will gather in North Platte for our annual Diocesan Council. Please keep our delegates, and delegates from across Nebraska, in your prayers as they travel and meet between October 26-28. There are no contentious issues before the body, beyond maybe ratifying the proposed budget for the upcoming year, thereby offering delegates a greater opportunity to gather in fellowship and discover more about the various ministries our diocese is involved in. Would you like to know how you can become a parish delegate? If so, please contact Fr. Tom.



## Cave Clean-out



Thank to the scouts and parish members who came and helped us clear out the many years of leftovers we stored away. Much of it went to the Habitat resale store, some went to the dumpster, and some we kept for a rainy day. Speaking of rain, we finished up just ahead of a gentle mist that started.

## Bell and Vocal Choir

As we begin preparing for the upcoming holiday season, our bell and vocal choirs are looking for volunteers to join them, as they prepare their holiday offerings, of song and music, intended to bring holiday joy into our worship experience. While we would all love to find a pool of operatic voices and musical virtuosos, God has given us what we have, a community who loves Jesus and offers from what we have to the glory of God. If you would like to learn more about either of these ministries, please contact Ali Clark (Vocal Choir) or Katerina Klimpel (Bell Choir).



## Team Leader Meeting

Our team leader meeting last month spent some time looking over the remaining calendar of events for this year, and looked ahead to next. Afterwards, ministries shared updates on the challenges they faced in 2023, and those they anticipate in 2024. One of the greatest challenges each ministry faces is parish participation. There always seems to be more work than people to do it, and as new needs and opportunities are identified, deciding how best to balance ministry resources is equally challenging. Having said this, each recognizes that we have many in our parish already serving in multiple ways and we must be careful not to ask too much in fear of overloading those who serve. Finally, we discussed the first quarter of shared ministry at the Spirit Hub. All were in agreement that the plan we have is good, and that the shared ministry has been a success with two ministries sharing that they have found new volunteers as a result of their increased visibility. As for how much we have increased the level of communication, that is still to be determined. However, those signing up for events has been slightly better than in the past.



## Christmas Pageant

No, your eyes are not deceiving you. The title of this entry is Christmas Pageant. As you know, each year our youth offer a rendition of the Christmas story to help us focus our attention on what is most important when it comes to the holidays. As our staff began to examine our costumes and props, we noted that they need a little TLC. If you would like to help us spruce things up and make some minor repairs, OR make new costumes (Cindy has patterns) please contact Cindy Pekarek or Jean Cook. They would be glad to match your skill with a need they have.



## Holy Land 2024



Registration will be opening soon for the 2024 pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Departing Omaha on 7 May, pilgrims from across our diocese will begin their journey to walk where Jesus prayed. While in Israel, pilgrims will visit historic sites detailed in scripture, bringing to life the stories we hear each week. We will return on Sat 18 May, just in time to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. If you would like to know more about this trip, pick up an itinerary from the Spirit Hub as they become available, or speak with Fr. Tom, who can also provide information about possible grants to help defray some of the costs.

## DOK

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 24th, several members of the Daughters of the King chapter spent a couple of hours at the Eastern Nebraska Veteran's Home playing cards with some of the residents. A couple of tables played Kings in the Corner, while the other tables played some poker.



## Youth Activities

### Bellevue Berry Farm

On Sunday (15 Oct) our Journeys Youth invite the youth of the parish (including those young at heart) to join them for an evening of fun and fellowship at the Bellevue Berry Patch. We will gather at the Farm between 6 & 6:30pm. Following a little time to let our youth explore, we will roast hot dogs over the campfire and then together take a hayride through the haunted forest. There is no cost for parish youth 10-18 who pre-register for this event. For family and friends (2 and older) the cost is \$19 (payable at the door). The Berry Farm still offers a \$1 off for every person who brings a can good for their food drive. Those wishing to enter the haunted house, will need to pay an additional fee to the park when arriving. The haunted house is not part of our planned evening activities.





## Papio Fun Park

Last month, our youth enjoyed another fun night at the Papio Fun Park. The bounce rooms and lazer tag continue to be a big hit. Several of our youth enjoyed miniature golf and others enjoyed playing some video games while parents enjoyed sitting around the table visiting and wondering what might a lock-in next summer, that included time at the fun park, look like. Watch the Flame for updates on what could be a very interesting experience for parish youth.



## Eagle Project



Phase one of the project is complete. They were able to get the trees planted in the circle drive and they began to clear out weeds and small trees in the fenced in area next to the church. There is more to follow, shrubs planted around the trees and finishing up in the fenced in area.



## Outreach

### Moving Veterans Forward



This month we will once again be collecting items for Moving Veterans Forward (MVF). As in years past, the list of items they are short on changes. While we will bless the items donated during our 9:30 service Sunday (15 Oct), items may be dropped off at the office or Spirit Hub at any time. On Sunday (1 Oct) Ron Hernandez, veteran and a coordinator of this ministry, will join us during coffee hour after the 9:30 service to answer any questions we may have about the work they do. The items (both new and gently used) they are in search of this year include:

- |                         |                               |                  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Crockpots (2 & 5 quart) | Shower Curtain liners & Rings | Coffee Makers    |
| Hand mixers             | Pizza Cutters                 | Coffee Filters   |
| Cutting boards          | Small counter microwaves      | Electric Skillet |

For more information about MVF, visit their website at <https://mvfne.org> or visit with Nancy Baxter.

### Trunk or Treat

Mark your calendars so that you don't miss our annual Trunk or Treat. After last year's response, we are planning to welcome a larger number of neighborhood youth. We will once again invite members to park in the parking lot, decorate their trunks, and distribute candy to those who come (a signup sheet to reserve a parking spot can be found at the Spirit Hub). This year, we are going to move the games indoors where more candy and prizes will be offered. We are hoping to offer 6-8 indoor games and need volunteers to help manage them (a signup sheet can also be found at the Spirit Hub to assist with games). For those on Facebook and Next Door, please watch for our neighborhood invites and help us spread the word by sharing them and/or making comments.



## Pancake Breakfast



Special thanks to Jan Sinram and her team of volunteers who provided us with an amazing pancake breakfast in support of Magdalene Omaha, and thank you to all who stayed to enjoy a Sunday brunch and who gave in support of this magnificent ministry. We raised a total of \$859 that will assuredly make a real difference in the lives of women who are striving to overcome the immense struggles that trapped them in a life they leave behind.



## Mobile Pantry



We were so blessed. The rain held off until the pantry and other projects were complete. While the sun did not shine, the smiles on our scout did as guests arrived and were served. Special thanks to those who helped us. While we did not run out of product, we shared the remaining grocery supplies with the Bellevue Food Pantry.



## Santa Ana Mission



In November, a team of volunteers from across the diocese (which includes our own Marcia Adams and Fr. Tom) will be heading to the Dominican Republic to work and worship at the Santa Ana Mission, just outside Santa Domingo. During our 4-10 Nov visit, the team will continue the work started last April, helping to restore and service the mission church and out buildings, so that it may welcome and better serve the neighboring community. We anticipate painting and ground's maintenance to be our primary tasks on this trip. We are hoping to find a volunteer with some plumbing experience so that we might make some minor repairs. If you are interested in knowing more about this trip, please contact Fr. Tom.



HAVE YOU  
TALKED  
TO GOD  
TODAY?

## Computer Ministry

What does the computer ministry do? The computer ministry keeps the computers up to date with all Microsoft Updates and does routine scans once or twice a month on all of the church's computers (6). Maintains the church's WiFi which is nothing more than restarting the Cox modem and the two wifi stations in the event of a power outage (Usually Fr. Tom can do this if it happens during normal church times).

Since we have updated the computers in the last few years and went to a simple home wifi setup there is very little time needed to maintain the church's computers. Here is a list of what I do?

1. I update the Windows Updates roughly once or twice a month. Usually if I have to update my home computer I try to update the church's computers within a week or two. It usually takes less than 1 to 2 hours to get all of them done.

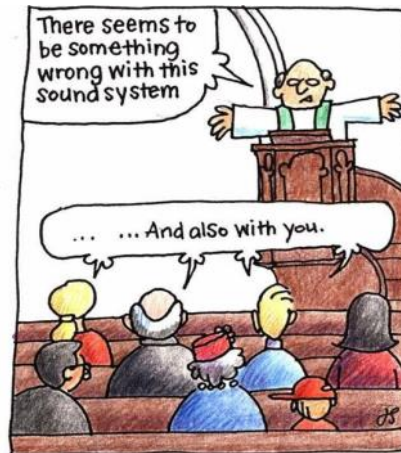
2. I try and do Virus scans on all the computers once a quarter using the Windows Defender quick scan if no problems develop. This usually takes less than 2 hours (all computers can be done at the same time). If anything is found the Windows Defender will give you options to remove or quarantine, generally they are removed.

3. Maintaining the WiFi system. Unplug the Cox modem, and the two WiFi routers waiting 30 seconds or so and plugging them back in the same order as you unplugged them. This happens very rarely unless there is a power outage. If you maintain a home WiFi router then this is the same.

4. All the information needed to perform these tasks you probably are already doing maintaining your home computers.

The reason I have went into such detail is I am not going to be around much anymore since I have retired. So I am looking for someone who might be interested in learning more about how the church's systems work. If interested in maybe finding out more about this ministry then talk to Fr. Tom and we can get together and see if you would like to be involved in the Computer Ministry.

Alan Wyant



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Financial Report as of August 31, 2023

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 11,019.00	\$ 17,265.92	\$ 129,538.00	\$ 138,127.33
Other Inc.	\$ 315.00	\$ 1,962.50	\$ 14,037.75	\$ 15,700.00
Total Inc	\$ 11,334.00	\$ 19,228.42	\$ 132,241.75	\$ 153,827.33
Expenses	\$ 17,696.98	\$ 19,303.83	\$ 149,267.86	\$ 154,430.67
			\$ 5,692.11	





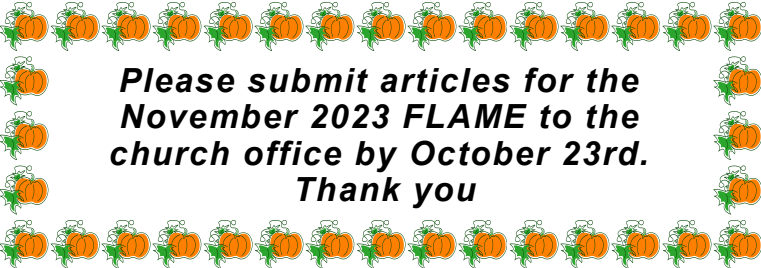
**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!**

- Oct 1** - Pet Blessing - 2pm
- Oct 8** - Finance Committee Meeting - 11am
- Oct 12** - Vestry Meeting - 6:30pm
- Oct 15** - Bellevue Pumpkin Patch - 6pm
- Oct 20** - Octoberfest - 7pm
- Oct 26** - Oct 28 - Annual Council
- Oct 29** - Trunk or Treat - 4:00 - 6:00pm



**LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE**

Ministries	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
<b>VPOD</b>	Barb S	Patrick H	Judy D	Lori S	Leslie N
<b>Hospitality Team 9:30 am Greeters ,Ushers &amp; Coffee Hour Host</b>	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 4
<b>Spirit Hub</b>	Jean C / Nancy B	Ted P	Leslie N		Dean O / Chris D
<b>Altar Bread</b>	Jen W	Jen W	Jen W	Jen W	Jen W
<b>Recycle Team</b>	Jan S	Marcia A	Lynda W	Karen G	Karen G
<b>LEM Saturday 5:00 pm</b>	Kristi S	Alberta Y	Charlotte A	Kathy / Toby W	Kristi S
<b>LEM Sunday 8:00 am</b>	Rick S	Doug A	Rick S	Doug A	Rick S
<b>LEM Sunday 9:30 am</b>	Grace W / Michele H Jan S	Carol S/ Anika S Lori E	Amber H/ Jan S Emily W / Jen W	Michele H Brian C	Ted P Vince C
<b>Acolytes</b> Crucifer Torch Torch	Olivia H Vincent C Evelynn C	Isaiah JH Evelynn C Mya H	Olivia H Mya H MacKenzie C	Isaiah CH Kyper M Ailynn M	Vincent C Evelynn C Ailynn M


  
**Please submit articles for the  
November 2023 FLAME to the  
church office by October 23rd.  
Thank you**



**Like Us!**  
**Facebook**



**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: September- May**

**Sunday:** *Sunday School @ 10:30 am*  
**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](mailto:holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org). The next deadline for submitting news is October 23rd.

**Webpage: [www.chsepiscopal.org](http://www.chsepiscopal.org)**

***Email: [holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org](mailto:holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org)***

***The Flame***  
***Newsletter of The Church of the Holy Spirit - Episcopal***  
***1305 Thomas Drive***  
***Bellevue, NE 68005-2973***  
***402-291-7732***