

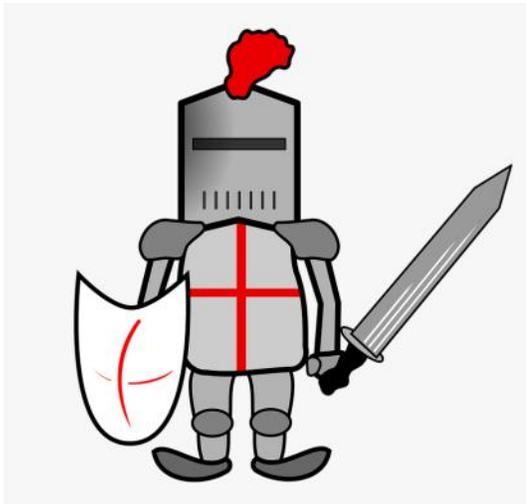


The Flame

May 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.

Vacation Bible School

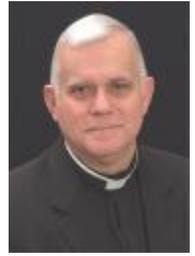


Monday (27 Jun) – Thursday (30 Jun) from 6-8 pm, our Christian Ed staff, along with our help, will once again offer VBS at CHS. Our VBS theme this year is the **Armor of God**. Online registration is now open through our website (www.chsepiscopal.org) under the What's Happening tab. We ask for a \$10 donation to help offset the costs.

As we prepare, there are several small projects that we need parish help in completing. Some are small, and others require a little more time. If you are able, please stop by the chapel hallway bulletin board and grab a card. Volunteers are also needed during to help guide our youth through the program. If you are able to help with a pre-VBS project, or able to help during VBS, please contact Cindy, or call the church office for more information.



Fr. Tom's Tidbits



I can't believe we are already moving into June. This year seems to be flying by so quickly as life in a post pandemic world seems to be returning to normal. Of course, normal is a relative term, and is impacted by the events that surround us. Recently, the bishop has approved a return to the common cup for communion. While this is welcomed by some, for many, there is still concern; and for this reason, our Vestry has discussed this issue over the last two months among themselves, and with the members of our parish. What we have learned is that the common cup is not the unifying practice it once was; in fact, for some, the pandemic allowed them to express their health concerns about its use. While there was some disagreement about the use of a common cup, one area in which all agreed, is that communion in two ways, as described by Jesus during the last supper, are essential aspects of the Eucharist.

So, after much prayer and discussion, our Vestry believes that returning to the practice of using a common cup alone, is no longer considered a normal expectation, or desire, of our community. Therefore, the Vestry has decided to postpone returning to a common cup, and to continue offering the wine (the blood of Christ) in small cups as we have been doing over the last two years. In addition, we will continue to serve communion by station, as we have been doing, instead of gathering around the altar rail. Some will ask, why can't we kneel or stand along the rail, and why can't we offer both common cup and small cups? The answer is we could; but, standing and kneeling alongside one another has been shown to contribute to the spread of not only covid, but the flu as well, and to offer both the common cup and small cups would complicate things for both our Altar Guild and Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

Even though this practice is not the long-held tradition of our community, what we are doing now works; most people feel comfortable, and all find themselves connected; and this practice is not unique to our community alone. Might we return to the use of a common cup alone or in combination? Maybe some day. While it has been proven not to be a major contributor to the spread of covid, the concerns raised about its use, and the desire by a large portion of our community to continue our current practice, were considerations we needed to factor into our decision. I ask for your grace, should this not be the decision you hoped for, that this does not become a divisive issue. If, as time passes, there is a strong sense that there is a real need for the return of the common cup during communion, I am sure the Vestry would gladly revisit this at a later date.

Father Tom

Bishop's Visit

On Pentecost Sunday (Sunday 5 Jun) our bishop will be here to help us celebrate our feast day. He will be at both the 8am and 9:30 am service and then join us for coffee hour where he is looking forward to meeting the members of our parish family. During his visit of the 9:30 service, we will also celebrate several baptisms and confirmations. Please plan to wear red and to stay a few minutes after the service to have a group picture taken with the bishop.



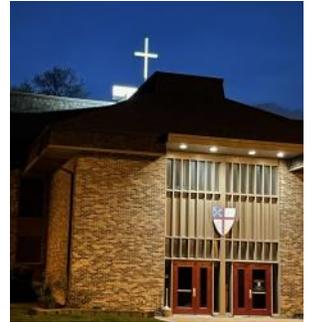
PARISH LIFE

New Cross



Thanks to the generosity of a few of our parish families, our roof cross has been replaced, and the mount upon which it sits has been repaired. This is good news in that we have known of a problem with the cross and its foundation for several years. Their generosity is a real blessing.

A Note from the families who gifted our new cross: “Thank you for accepting our gift of Thanksgiving and for the many blessings we have received in this place”. They offer this quote from Jan Meacham “It is through love that we glimpse the divine and touch the cross of Christ”.



Recognition Sunday



As our program year came to a close, we were excited to acknowledge the accomplishments of our youth. Cindy and Jean made presentations to our Sunday school youth, and Fr. Tom offered gifts to our Journeys’ mentors Pam Chisam, Michele Hagen, Lori Stevens, and Marcia Adams. Fr. Tom said he would normally do this during our Journeys Crossings service, but with his upcoming trip to the Holy Land he wanted to offer them something special. Afterwards, Fr. Tom also presented Cindy with a small token of thanks from the Holy Land for all the work she does in support of our youth. Fr. Tom then acknowledged our High School Graduates and presented each with a bible and blessing. To close out our time of recognition, Fr. Tom announced the recipient of this year’s CHS college scholarship, Erin Hedglin. An outstanding student and active helper in the parish, Erin has been a blessing to us, and we were glad to learn how she feels blessed through the relationships she enjoys as well.



Holy Land Pilgrimage

Our team arrived home safe and sound, and no worse for the wear, although the soles on their shoes was a little thinner. This was a truly spiritually enriching journey, and all talked about being overwhelmed by the majesty, peace, and connection felt visiting the various holy sites believed to have been part of Jesus' life and ministry. While the Sea of Galilee was a favorite spot, no other site was more moving than visiting the tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

One way in which we were all blessed, was that the crowds we expected to encounter did not materialize. Other than in the gondola going to the top of Masada, we were always able to maintain a little distance from those we didn't know, and never felt the crush of people around us. If you are on Facebook, pictures were posted daily to our Facebook Group page (Church of the Holy Spirit) with brief descriptions of the places we visited. Several members have asked if we were going to offer any presentation and discussion about our trip. We will be discussing this and trying to figure out the best way to do so later this month.





Escape Room



While our Journeys program may be taking a summer break, several of our youth gathered together for a night of fun, and frustration, as they sought to solve the mystery of the Little Black Book, in order to escape from Bellevue's own Break Out Room on Franklin Street. Special thanks to Lori Stevens and Corey Hagen for helping chaperone the night's excitement.



Daughters of the King



On Saturday, May 14, several members of Holy Spirit's chapter of the Daughters of the King® and several other guests gathered at La Mesa in Bellevue to hear about the **Read Me A Story** program which was founded by Deacon Rebecca Smith. Rebecca is an educator, an attorney, a Daughter of the King®, and a recently ordained Deacon at St. Augustine's, Elkhorn. The **Read Me A Story** program allows inmates in the local county jails and state prisons to be recorded reading books for their children. The children then receive the recording and the book.

Deacon Rebecca explained that help is needed across several areas in order for this program to be successful. Not only does she need help in going to the jails and prisons to do the recordings, but also financial support to purchase books to be read and CDs or other media to hold the recordings. Also, money is needed to buy the envelope mailers and postage. Rebecca will take donations of story books for all ages, and in

other languages. If you would like more information or would like to help support this ministry, please contact Deacon Rebecca at rsmith1956@msn.com.



Parish Clean-up

An outdoor cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday (4 Jun) between 9:30 am and Noon. If you have an hour or more that you can offer to lend a helping hand, your help would be greatly appreciated. For more information about June's cleanup, contact Dean Olander, Chris Darrell, or call the church office.



Youth Activities

Youth Walk-a-Thon

The area Episcopal Youth walk-a-thon and service project, originally planned for Friday & Saturday (3-4 Jun), has been postponed. No date has been chosen yet by area parishes. As soon as a date is determined, we will get the word out to our youth

New Year's in June

On Friday (24 Jun) parish youth, 10-18, are invited to join us for an all-night celebration of the new year. We will begin at 8:00 pm. After breakfast the next morning, we will help distribute food at the Mobile Pantry ending our celebration at 11:30 am Saturday morning. There is no cost for this event and friends are welcome to join our youth as their guest. All youth are asked to sign up at the Spirit Hub to let us know that you are coming.



Craft Sundays

Back by popular demand, we are doing Craft Sundays again this summer. For those not familiar with this, a few Sundays during the summer the youth can stay after service and have fun with crafts led by Jean Cook. It is open to youth of all ages, but we do ask those under 5 years old have an adult to help them. Please let the office or Cindy Pekarek know a week in advance of the Craft Day to insure enough for everyone.

June 12th Father's Day Gift

July 10th Fun with Paint

July 24th Popsicle stick craft

August 14th TBA



EARTH CARE CORNER

By Virginia Babcock

Katharine Hayhoe is a Canadian climate scientist living in Texas. She is an icon in her field and has been speaking and writing about what can be done about our changing climate. In her book Saving Us she incorporates ideas and facts from numerous experts and scholars in the fields of religion, science, and human psychology. As a Christian, she is passionate about explaining the best ways to create a dialogue among us that will most probably lead to collective action that will ultimately “save us” from ongoing natural disasters.

As Ronald Reagan stated in 1984 “Preservation of our environment is not a partisan challenge, it is common sense. Our health, social happiness and our economic well-being will be sustained only by all of us working together as effective stewards of our natural resources.” “The bottom line is this: climate change is not only a science issue or environmental issue. It is an issue of hunger, poverty, and of justice. It is a human issue.”

Katharine Hayhoe

And so – it is most certainly an issue to be taken seriously by all people of faith in a creator, God.

Out Reach

2022 Red Cross Blood Drive

After our February Blood Drive was cancelled at the last minute due to Red Cross staffing shortages, we were able to successfully complete a Donor Drive on May 14th. While we unfortunately did not completely fill the schedule, we received a THANK YOU email from the Red Cross for our efforts, and given the following official numbers for our drive.

Our drive registered 11 donors and collected 9 pints of blood (2 were unable to complete their donation) on our goal of 12. This equates to potentially saving 27 lives!



Mobile Pantry



Our next mobile pantry is scheduled for Saturday (25 Jun). Volunteers are always welcome and asked to arrive by 9:30am. As usual, we will begin distribution at 10:00am and serve guests until 11:30am, or until our supply runs out. Please help us spread the word. If you, or someone you know, are in need of grocery assistance, then stop by. The Foodbank for the Heartland is continuing to support drive through pantries where pre-boxed items are placed in the car by our volunteers. If you have any questions about how you can help, or how you can spread the word, please contact Margie Crawford, or call the office.

School Supplies

Please keep your eyes open for upcoming sales on school supplies. While school is just ending for the summer, Bellevue Together preparations for the fall semester are already underway. We will be collecting items in late July. Bellevue Together has sponsored a school supply distribution day for several years now, and we have joyfully been part of the community's efforts to meet the needs of area students. If you choose to make a donation in lieu of items, please ensure your check notes school supplies in the memo line. All funds collected will be used to purchase additional supplies needed.



Free/Discounted Internet Service

President Biden announced last week that 20 internet companies have agreed to provide discounted service — \$30 a month — to people with low incomes. Under the Affordable Connectivity Program, eligible Americans can receive \$30 monthly subsidies, making internet service fully paid for with government assistance if they sign up with one of the participating providers.

The 20 internet companies that have agreed to lower their rates provide service in areas where 80% of the U.S. population, including 50% of the rural population, live, according to the White House. Participating companies that offer service on tribal lands are providing \$75 rates in those areas, the equivalent of the federal government subsidy.

Families of four earning about \$55,000 annually are eligible. About 40% of Americans will qualify, Biden said.

The White House has set up a website for people to see if they qualify. If the website says you are eligible, you can apply for the benefit through the mail — or by contacting your existing internet provider if they are participating in the program.



You can learn more about how to apply on the [Affordable Connectivity Program website](#). You can also call 877-384-2575.

Vestry Meeting Minutes May 19, 2022

Vestry Members present: Fr. Tom Jones, Ken Gomeringer, Margie Crawford, Judy Darrell, Leslie Nutting, Lori Erickson. Also present: Marcia Adams, Treasurer and Carol McLaughlin, Recorder

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

Treasurer's Report: Marcia Adams

Operational Expense Review: Individual expense items reviewed. Large amount over budget for Computer Equipment/Support explained, this is because it was not included as a budgeted item. Rector Health Insurance, Cell Phone and Organist Salary items are 2-month payments.

Changes in Equity: Endowment Fund Balance is a negative \$20,912 because of market downturn. Everything else unremarkable.

Balance Sheet: Total available assets \$653,350.91

Motion M05-19-01: Margie moved that we accept the reports as presented. Judy seconded. Approved. **Motion M05-19-02:** Lori moved that we pay the bills. Leslie seconded. Approved.

Designated Funds Expenditures (Fr. Tom): Reviewed and authorized.

Date	Fund	Purpose	Amount
4/25/22	Rector Discretionary	Organizational Donations	1250.00
4/25/22	Funeral Fund	Funeral Expense	125.36
4/25/22	Rector Discretionary	Books for Vestry study	169.50
5/4/22	Funeral Fund	Funeral Expense	105.90
5/17/22	Building Fund	Cross Replacement	2,350.00

TEACHING / STUDY:

Members discussed chapters 1 and 3 of the book "un.con.nect.ed." Fr. Tom asked for discussion of three questions related to these chapters:

What are we inviting people to know and experience?

What might we do to make our building and grounds more inviting?

How could we improve the cleanliness of our restrooms and common areas?

There was lengthy discussion, resulting in several suggestions for improvement that we could implement. Vestry members are asked to read chapters 4 and 8 for discussion next month.

INFORMATION / UPDATES:

The calendar for the upcoming month was discussed.

Cross replacement is now complete.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Common communion cup discussion: Members were asked to bring this up with parish members. Based on what was learned, it was decided to continue using the individual disposable plastic cups for the remainder of this year. If enough people express a desire to return to using the common cup, we will review again at a later date.

Vacation Bible School: This is scheduled for June 27-30. Volunteers are still needed to assist.

Parish Picnic: Some ideas for a location were presented. We will continue to look around for a park with picnic pavilion, restrooms and a convenient location for the picnic which is scheduled for August 21.

Stained Glass Windows: Fr. Tom has found some that he likes but will look at any other suggestions.

Achen's (organist) departure: Achen will be leaving us Sunday (31 Jul). A replacement has been found and the new organist will start right after. Judy Darrell volunteered to get a card to be signed by members of the parish offering their thanks for his ministry.

Fr. Tom's class on leadership included a section on how to recruit and retain volunteers. He handed out a score sheet and asked everyone for input on how we see him as a servant leader. Please answer honestly, it can be submitted anonymously.

DECISION ITEMS:

Motion M05-19-03: Fr. Tom moved that \$150 be transferred from the Gray memorial to YES, and the remaining balance to the Endowment Fund. Judy seconded. Approved.

Motion M05-19-04: Judy moved that the meeting adjourn. Lori seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of April 30, 2022

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 11,667.00	\$ 16,704.42	\$ 61,003.00	\$ 66,817.67
Other Inc.	<u>\$ 1,919.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,457.33</u>	<u>\$ 8,189.71</u>	<u>\$ 5,829.33</u>
Total Inc	\$ 13,586.00	\$ 18,161.75	\$ 69,192.71	\$ 72,647.00
Expenses	\$ 19,122.06	\$ 18,873.83	<u>\$ 68,351.00</u>	\$ 75,495.33
Balance			\$ 841.71	



Pray & Forward
From St. John's Evangelist



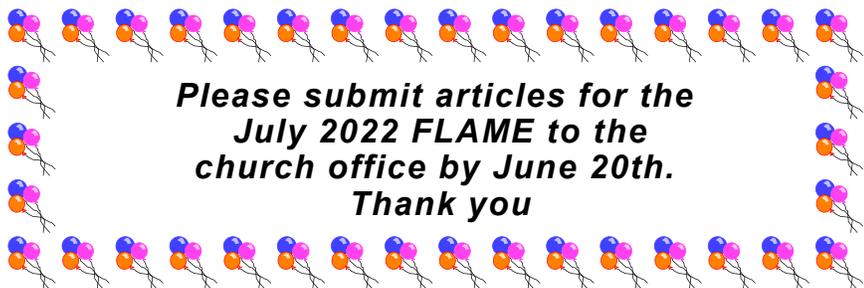
UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!

- June 4 - Parish Clean-up Day
- June 5 - Pentecost - Bishop's Visit
- June 12 - Finance Committee meeting
- June 16 - Vestry Meeting
- June 24 - "New Years" Youth Lock-in
- June 25 - Mobile Food Pantry
- June 27 - 30 - Vacation Bible School



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Ministries	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
VPOD	Leslie N	Lori E	Kristi S	Ken G
Hospitality Team 9:30 am Greeters ,Ushers & Coffee Hour Host	Team 4	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Recycle Team	Jan S	Marcia A	Lynda W	Karen G
LEM Saturday 5:00	Alberta Y	Kristi S	Alberta Y	Kristi S
LEM Sunday 8:00	Doug A	Rick S	Rick S	Doug A
LEM Sunday 9:30	Michele H Lex G	Ken G Jennifer W	Terri S Vince C	Jan S Lori E
Acolytes Crucifer Torch Torch	Isaiah H Kyper M Ailynn M	Anika S Vincent C Evelynn C	Olivia h Alex W Tanner M	LEM



Please submit articles for the July 2022 FLAME to the church office by June 20th. 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. The next deadline for submitting news is June 20th

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org

Email: holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org

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