



The Flame

March 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.



Valentine's Extravaganza

On February 11th, our Valentine's Extravaganza was held in the parish hall with a slightly smaller crowd than usual, but those who attended enjoyed plenty of food and won from a large array of prizes. Lynda Wyant, with the help of Alan, set the stage with their festive tablescapes. Sharon Jones led the kitchen with major help from Lori Stevens. In the afternoon, Marcia Adams, Donna Boettcher, and their sister, Debbie, helped with slicing and dicing and other prep work. The international menu for the night included Asian Chicken Wonton Cups, Falafel with a Middle East bulgur salad, Jamaican beef patties with a fruit salad, Tricolore Pork (pork loin stuffed with provolone, roasted red peppers and spinach), and Tres Leche cake. Many thanks to Peggy Zelazny, Deanne McCarrison and the many others who donated prizes. A special thank you to Nancy Ermintano of SmallCakes in Tara Plaza, Papillion, for the gift certificates to be used at SmallCakes. Lastly, thank you to Father Tom for his wine and non-alcoholic drink selection plus his excellent Bingo calling.



Fr. Tom's Tidbits



As many of you know, last month I participated in a diocesan clergy retreat with the bishop at The St. Benedict Center in Schuyler. It was a time of rest and renewal. While reconnecting with clergy from across the diocese is always a highlight of our retreat, what I truly enjoyed most was the day we spent in silence and the quiet it afforded. It has been a long time since I spent time in intentional silence, avoiding the distractions that seem to come at me moment after moment. It was a real blessing; and at the end of the day, I must admit I felt not only relaxed, but excited as well, as it gave me a chance to think and pray about the upcoming Lenten season.

Lent is often seen as a time to give up something to show our willingness to suffer in some small way as our Lord did his 40 days in the wilderness. But as I sat in silence, in the comfort of the retreat center, I thought about all those times when I sat in the silence of the wilderness; wilderness found not only in nature, but of my own making. Just as the wilderness can be a place we are surrounded by God's beauty; it can also be a lonely and desolate place as well. I enjoyed the peace the retreat's silence made possible, but I know that it is not a peace that could last. The distractions of the world would (and did on retreat) eventually seep in. While frustrating in some ways, our journey into and out of silence can bring about a longing for what we experienced.

This Lent, I encourage each of us to take some time each day and create a silence. It doesn't have to be for a day, it can be for as little as 5 or 10 minutes. Taking time to turn off the television, put down the phone, escape from social media, let go of whatever we are doing, and to just rest in the silence created, can bring a quietness to the soul that enables us to sense God's presence in our lives. I believe that when we do, we will find a desire to do so again and again. Who knows, it could even become a regular practice, bringing us closer and closer to God. I must warn you, doing so will not always be easy. The distractions in our lives can be very formidable. But, over time, such a practice will lead us to the place where peace is not something hoped for, but a blessing that is realized. That place, that place is found in the midst of God's love.

May we all enjoy a blessed Lenten season, knowing that surrounded by God's love, we can find and experience the peace which surpasses all human understanding, peace that prepares our heart for the journey before us and the joy we will celebrate come Easter morning.

Father Tom

Vestry Meeting Minutes

February Vestry meeting minutes were not available at time of publishing. They will be posted on the bulletin board in the hall at a later date.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of January 31, 2022

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 20,562.00	\$ 16,704.42	\$ 20,562.00	\$ 16,704.42
Other Inc.	\$ 3,602.05	\$ 1,457.33	\$ 3,602.05	\$ 1,457.33
Total Inc	\$ 24,164.05	\$ 18,161.75	\$ 24,164.05	\$ 18,161.75
Expenses	\$ 16,602.77	\$ 18,873.83	\$ 16,602.77	\$ 18,873.83
Balance			\$ 7,561.28	

Parish Life

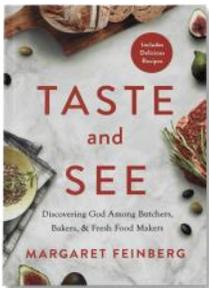
Shrove Tuesday

This year, our St. Margert's chapter of the Daughters of the King® will host our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on Tuesday (1 Mar). Dinner will be served in the parish hall between 5 & 7 pm. We will once again offer in-house and takeaway dinners. To order a takeout dinner, simply call the church ahead of time at (402) 291-7732 so that we can have it ready when you arrive. All proceeds from a free will offering will go to support the Magdalene Omaha Ministry. Please bring any palms you may have from previous years and drop them in the box provided. Palms received will be burned and used for ashes during one of our Ash Wednesday services.



Each year we begin the season of Lent with services on Ash Wednesday. We will once again provide three services (9:30am, Noon, and 7:00pm) offering the imposition of ashes and communion. All three services will be held in the sanctuary. Beginning at 6:15pm, members attending the later service are invited to a soup supper hosted and served by our parish youth group.

Lent Program



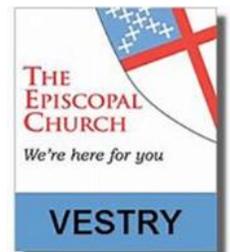
This year's Lent Program "*Taste and See*" explores foods described through scripture and their role in shaping, sustaining, and enriching community. We will begin with a shared soup supper at 5:00pm. We ask participants to sign up at the Spirit Hub to share a soup, bread, or dessert item during one or more of our evening sessions. Following dinner, beginning at 5:45 pm, we will begin our study, finishing with Compline by 7:00pm. A program will be available for youth 5-11. Please let Cindy Pekarek (our Christian Ed Dir) know if you have youth who will attend so that she can be ready for when they arrive. Our study will be held over six weeks. The topics of discussion each week are as follows:

1. You're Invited to the Table – Making deeper connections around any table.
2. Delighting in the Sweetness of Fruitfulness – A closer look at the imagery of fruit in the Bible.
3. Chewing on the Bread of Life – More than a biblical metaphor! Professional bakers respond.
4. Savoring the Salt of the Earth – How many different kinds of salt can you think of?
5. Relishing the Olive and Its Oil – Why the olive leaf is a miracle of creation.
6. Discovering the Liturgy of the Table – Experience God's goodness in community.

Hoping you can join us to both learn about and enjoy the many blessings God has provided us in and through food.

Vestry Retreat

Each year, as our newly elected Vestry members join the Vestry, we hold a short retreat. It is a time set aside to ensure the torch is passed on in a way that helps shape the ministry of the Vestry in the coming year without losing sight of the vision of the last. This year, with the help of Jennifer Wilson, our Vestry will focus its attention on our shared ministry and vision, to begin the process of exploring what they might look like as we move forward as a parish family in light of changes imposed on us by the pandemic and in the challenges we will face in the future. There will be opportunities for parish inputs as this process unfolds. Please watch *The Weekly Spark* or our monthly *Flame* for more details



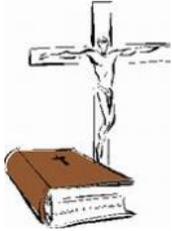
Pastoral Visits

With the dangers of widespread covid diminishing, beginning in March, Fr. Tom, with the help of Fr. Bob Schlismann and our Lay Visitor Ministry Team, will resume home visits for those unable to join us for worship. While we would really love to have everyone return to in-person worship, we understand that some face challenges beyond their control and our goal is to reconnect with, and reassure, those unable to be with us in-person, they are part of our parish family and not forgotten. If you would like a home visit (which will include communion) please contact the church office.



Eucharistic Ministers

Planning your funeral



One of the greatest gifts we can leave behind for our loved one, is our wishes, and some valuable information needed, for that time when we pass from this world to the next. Copies of the CHS Booklet *Planning Your Funeral* are now available at the Spirit Hub. Please pick one up, fill it out, and stop by the church office to have copies made for sharing with family and to be placed on file in the parish office. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Tom.

The St. Margaret Chapter of Daughters of the King®
invite you to share a

Lenten Labyrinth Day

walk, pray, meditate, and connect with God

Saturday, March 19, 2022

anytime between 12

10am to 2 pm

We invite you to come walk our 27-foot square indoor labyrinth in the parish hall

or

come walk our outdoor brick labyrinth off the circular drive.

(weather permitting)



Daughters of the King® members will be available to provide guidance and instruction, if needed.



Daylight Savings time begins March 13.
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
before you go to bed.



Parish Out Reach

Mobile Pantry

It was a chilly day for last month's Mobile Pantry. We are so thankful for the number of volunteers who arrived so that people could cycle in and out of the parish building to warm up. This is not the first-time weather was less than ideal for a pantry; there has been really hot days and rainy ones as well. But, knowing we are making a difference in the lives of those who come to us makes it all worth it. The little suffering, we endure, is nothing compared to that of those with serious food insecurities. I am so thankful we are able to pay forward in some way from the blessings we enjoy. Our next pantry is scheduled for Saturday (26 Mar). We would love to have you join us. Please let anyone you know, know about our upcoming event. For more information about where the mobile pantry will be in the meantime, visit <https://foodbankheartland.org/food-resources/find-food/#section02>, click on Filter by Category, select March Mobile Food Pantry.



Blood Drive



The Red Cross will be here at CHS the first Saturday of March (5 Mar). If you are able, and willing, to make a donation, it is easy to reserve a time that works with your schedule. Just visit the Red Cross website at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>, click on find a drive, and enter our zip code (68005). Scroll down and click on Church of the Holy Spirit and pick a time. It's that easy. Help us make a difference in the local community. For more information, please contact Carol McLaughlin.

Episcopal Relief and Development

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) works with dioceses across the US to assist members of vulnerable groups in the immediate aftermath of natural and human-made disasters like hurricanes, oil spills, and others. ERD was here in Bellevue following the flooding of the Missouri river and provided CHS and the diocese with funds to help distribute food to those in need and to assist affected families begin recovery. Each Lent we invite parish members to contribute to support this fund. Donation envelopes will be available between Sun (6 Mar) and Palm Sunday at the Spirit Hub. Simply place your donation into one of these envelopes and drop it in the offertory plate.



United Thanks Offering



The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, giving thanks to God for those blessings and to make an offering for each blessing using a UTO blue box. The UTO will distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovated mission and ministry through The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. Blue Boxes will be available for pickup at the Spirit Hub beginning Palm Sunday, for use during Holy Week and the Easter season, and we will collect boxes on Pentecost Sunday.

Youth

Youth Group Roller Skating

Last month, instead of our usual youth group program, our Journeys youth, along with friends and other youth from the parish, enjoyed a night of roller skating at Skate City. Thankfully, nobody was hurt, although there may be a few sore muscles from all the exercise, and our youth had a really good time. While youth skated, our Journeys mentors, along with parents who came to watch, enjoyed a rather peaceful evening and some good conversation.



Papio Fun Park

Our next big youth group event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30th when we will travel to Papio Fun Park for an evening of Lazar tag, miniature golf, and bouncy castles. This event is free and open to parish youth 10-18 years of age. The cost for friends and family who wish to attend is \$5.00. Arcade games are not included in our group package. Youth wishing to play arcade games are encouraged to bring some extra spending money. Please sign up at the Spirit Hub to let us know who is planning on attending this event and the number of friends who will be joining you.



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. If you wish to join our youth for dinner at 6:30pm, please sign up at the Spirit Hub. All others are welcome to arrive at 7:00pm.





UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!

- March 1 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5 -7
- March 2 - Ash Wednesday Services 9:30 am, 12:00, 7:00 pm
- March 4 & 5 - Vestry Retreat
- March 5 - Red Cross Blood Drive
- March 6 - Lenten Soup Suppers and Study begin - 5:00 pm
- March 13 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 19 - DOK Lenten Labyrinth Day - noon to 4 pm
- March 26 - Mobile Food Pantry - 10:00 to 11:30 am



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Ministries	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
VPOD	Ken G	Michele H	Margie C	Cindy P
Hospitality Team 9:30 am <i>Greeters ,Ushers & Coffee Hour Host</i>	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1	Team 2
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 am	Rick S	Doug A	Rick S	Doug A
LEM Sunday 9:30 am	Michele H Lori E	Vince C Jan S	Lex G Terri S	Margie C Jennifer W
Acolytes Crucifer Torch Torch	Isaiah H Vincent C Evelynn C	William R Kyper M Ailynn M	Emily W Olivia H Eric G	Anika S Vincent C Evelynn C

Please submit articles for the
April 2022 FLAME to the
church office by March 18th.
Thank you



Like Us!
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MARCH

The
Season
of
Lent



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 March 18th.

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org

Email: holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org

The Flame
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