



The Flame

March 2026

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

Please mark your calendars so not to miss any of our Holy Week services. **Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday March 29, and ends with Easter Sunday, April 5.** As part of our Holy Week, we will once again hold our Maundy Thursday Vigil. Following our Maundy Thursday worship, we will hold an all-night prayer vigil beginning at 8pm in the chapel. On his last night, Jesus, after praying, found his disciples asleep. Waking them, he asked, could they not stay awake with him for one-hour. During our vigil we are invited to sit in prayer for one hour. A sign-up sheet is located at the Spirit Hub to let us know what time you would like to join us for prayer. If the time you wish is already filled, and no other time works with your schedule, feel free to come anyway. Our goal is to have all hours of the night covered by at least one person. If you sign-up, please come to the blue door on Thomas Dr. and ring the doorbell for entry. You can also sign-up to keep vigil at home. The vigil will be online.

- PALM SUNDAY** Saturday Service 5:00pm, use blue door on Thomas Dr.
Sunday Service 8:00am, use blue door on Thomas Dr.
Sundy 9:30am, enter through the red parking lot doors **broadcast live on Facebook.**
- HOLY MONDAY** Noon Service in the Chapel, use blue door on Thomas Dr.
- HOLY TUESDAY** Noon Service in the Chapel, use blue door on Thomas Dr.
- HOLY WEDNESDAY** 9:30am Service in the Chapel, use blue door on Thomas Dr.
7:00pm Stations of the Cross, use the red parking lot doors.
- MAUNDY THURSDAY** Soup supper followed by service, use red parking lot doors.
- TRIDUUM VIGIL** 8:00pm-11:00am Chapel, use blue door on Thomas Dr. **broadcast live on Facebook.**
- GOOD FRIDAY** Noon in the Chapel, use blue door on Thomas Dr.
1:00pm -3:00 pm, Labyrinth in the parish hall and Stations of the Cross in Chapel.
6:30pm Service enter through the red parking lot doors **broadcast live on Facebook.**
- EASTER VIGIL** 6:30pm Saturday Service in the Sanctuary, **broadcast live on Facebook.**
- EASTER SUNDAY** 8:00am in Chapel & 9:30am in Sanctuary, **services broadcast live on Facebook.**
Easter Celebration after the 9:30am service with Easter Egg hunt.

Mother Margaret's Musings

On Ash Wednesday we entered Lent

As we have entered Lent we have begun a time of reflection and a hope for renewal over these weeks. On the first Sunday of Lent, and on the Sunday nights Lenten Study, we entered the Way of Love program that was developed by the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. It is a return to the ancient pathways of living a Christian life and also connects us with the Rules of Life. Over these five weeks you will have the opportunity to develop your own set of "Rules" to follow. I encourage you to attend the Sunday evening meals and study to explore this program. If this time is not possible for you please contact me and we can do a one-on-one.



Also, I encourage to take a Day-by-Day booklet and read it daily, beginning with this Lenten Season.

Day-by-Day can found online at: [Daily Prayer: A Resource of Forward Movement](#). Let's try to make this a regular practice in our lives.

Celebrating With Alan, A Dear Member of Our Church Community

On Sunday, March 8th at 4:39pm we will join together with Alan Wyant as a church family to celebrate his life. Alan will be with us and you will have an opportunity to tell your stories of times with him. We want to take this time to join in prayer, fellowship and a wonderful meal. Come and help us bring and show our love for him as we join with him as he is walking his difficult walk with cancer. Please sign up to bring your favorite dishes at the Spirit Hub. If you would like to know more or have any questions, please contact me.



2026 Clergy Retreat



Deacon Terri and I have participated the DioNeb 2026 Clergy Retreat from Tuesday, Feb 24th to Friday Feb 27th at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE. It has been wonderful in so many ways. The presentations, worship, meals and fellowship has been so enriching for both of us. We will share more details over the weeks

May your Lenten days be enriching and become a source of spiritual growth for each of you. ☩



Mother Margaret+

Daylight Savings Time begins March 8th. Set your clocks ahead and don't miss church.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS AFFECTS SUNDAY MORNING



Deacons Corner

We are now nearly two weeks into our Lenten journey. By now, the smudge of ashes from Ash Wednesday has long been washed away, and for many of us, the "newness" of our Lenten disciplines—that fast from coffee, that extra time in prayer—might be starting to feel more like a chore than a transformation.

But, I am here to encourage you: **Now is the time to find your second wind.**

Lent is often described as a season of "giving things up." We look inward, we examine our hearts, and we sit in the quiet. That is necessary work. But, if our Lent stays confined to our own internal reflections, we've missed the "Spirit" of this Church of the Holy Spirit.

In the diaconal tradition, Lent isn't a retreat *away* from the world; it is an intensive training period for how we live *in* the world.

Moving from the Pew to the Pavement When I stand at the back of the church each Sunday and give the Dismissal, I am not simply announcing that the service is over. I am commissioning all of us for the work ahead. In these middle weeks of Lent, I challenge us to turn our "fasts" into "feasts" of service for our neighbors here in Bellevue.

- **If fasting from a meal**, take the money saved and donate it to one of our outreach ministries.
- **If fasting from social media**, use that reclaimed hour to check in on a fellow parishioner who hasn't been able to make it to our services lately.

If fasting from "busy-ness," use that silence to listen—really listen—to the needs of the colleagues and neighbors we see every day.

A High-Energy Lent The world doesn't need us to be somber for forty days; it needs us to be **awake**. Our community in Bellevue is full of people facing their own "wilderness" moments—financial stress, loneliness, and uncertainty. Our Lenten disciplines are meant to sharpen our eyes so we can see them, and strengthen our hands so we can help them.

When you hear the Dismissal this Sunday, don't just head for the parking lot. Head for the mission field. Let's show Bellevue that at Church of the Holy Spirit, Lent is the season where our love for our neighbor burns the brightest.

Peace,

Deacon Terri



Great News:

Starting March 8th, the 8am Rite 1 service will also be broadcast live on Facebook. Look for the bulletin for that service on our web site starting March 15th.

Adding to Holy Week Meditations:

On Good Friday, April 3, the Labyrinth will be in the parish hall 1:00pm - 3:00 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to stay after the noon service and follow the Stations of the Cross or use the Labyrinth.

Journalist Needed:

The parish is in need of an amateur journalist to help write the articles and locate photos for the Flame. To find out more, please see Mother Margaret or the office administrator.



Parish Life

Valentine's Extravaganza!

A fun, delicious time was had by one and all at this year's Valentine's Extravaganza! Katrina & Andrew were wonderful hosts. We had many volunteers to set up, take down, pour wine, and cook food. The BINGO games were a hit with many possible prizes. There was much laughter and good fellowship. It was a great evening all around.

By popular request, here is the recipe for the potatoes, adapted from the cookbook 1080 Recipes, by Simone and Inés Ortega:



- 1) Cut 3 1/4lbs small potatoes into bite-sized pieces and place in a large bowl.
- 2) Over medium heat, cook 3 1/2 oz diced thick-cut bacon until partially rendered and lightly browned at the edges (not to crisped). Pour the bacon and its grease over the potatoes. Likewise render ~2 oz. Mexican-style (soft) chorizo, and pour over the potatoes.
- 3) Dice ~2 oz of hard salami, and likewise add to the bowl of potatoes. Salt the potatoes, and throw in a clove or two of minced garlic. Drizzle over some olive oil, and mix everything together.
- 4) Pour out the bowl onto a baking sheet, and bake at 375°F until potatoes are cooked through and browned, 30-45 minutes.



Shrove Tuesday: Thank you so much to all of our "Men of Spirit" for your help at the Shrove Tuesday supper. Turn out was moderate, but everyone enjoyed their efforts. Special thanks to Dean Olander, Doug Adams, Doug Chisam, Brian Caskie, and Vince Cummings Jr for all the extra time and effort you put in.
Chris Darrell





Mother Margaret's first Ash Wednesday with Church of the Holy Spirit was well attended at both drive by ashes and in person at our services. We hosted some new faces and of course our familiar faces. She was very pleased with both the turnout and the help from the various ministries. Thank you to all of our parishioners who volunteer to make these services happen.

DOK Day of Prayer/Labyrinth



Our Daughters of the King will hold a day of prayer on Sat, March 21. They will have the indoor labyrinth set up for those who may wish to explore this prayer aid. All are invited to stop by the church between 11am - 2 pm to spend some time in prayer, in our chapel, walking the labyrinth (indoors or outdoors), or walking the stations of the cross.



Outreach

Mobile Food Pantry



We were blessed with a remarkably nice day for our February pantry. We were able to help 88 families. Our next pantry is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. As always, volunteers are asked to arrive by 9:30am to help us get ready for our distributions between 10-11:30am. Help us spread the word.



Dominican Republic Mission Trip:

Spring and Fall, 2026

Come join us in a pilgrimage to the Dominican Republic! We have several trips planned for 2026.

- Adult Trip - Monday May 11th and returning on Monday May 18th.
- Family trip (Parent(s) and their children under the age of 16) - Saturday June 20th and returning on Friday June 26th.
- "Young Adult" trip (youth 16+ up to age 21ish) - Sunday June 28th returning Sunday July 5th.

Second Adult Trip - Monday November 2nd returning Monday November 9th.

For more information, please contact either Fr. John Schaefer or Fr. Tom Jones.

Sign-up sheets will be at the Spirit hub by March 15th.



Youth Activities

Troop 464:

It was a blessing for me to give the Invocation & Benediction at the Troop 483 Court of Honor on Monday, February 23rd, 2026. I was also asked to give an update regarding our Church of the Holy Spirit activities. We have so many people who are leading or serving in roles



for the troop, along with many scouts. As you can see in the photos that all of the people involved in the scouts are also so involved here in their church. This is a testimony to how they place importance on the priorities in their lives. I was so proud to be able to represent CHS in this very joyous and honorable event!! Mother Margaret+



Journeys:

Once again our youth will help make the palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Everyone is invited to join us at 7:00pm Wednesday, March 25th. You don't have to be skilled, we will teach you. You can also help by cutting tips off or just counting.

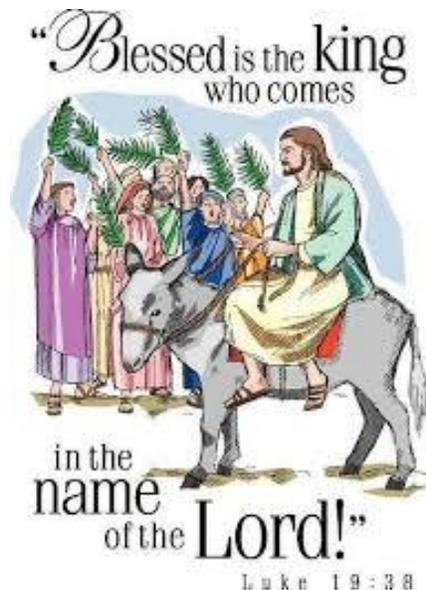


Foods of Jesus's Time:

Ever wonder what kind of food Jesus and his disciples ate? While having a Sater Supper as Jesus would have had to follow Hebrew customs is not practical we can try some of his everyday foods.



On Palm Sunday stop by the classrooms ("the upper room") and try some of the foods that are still around. We have lamb meatballs, olives, dates, flat bread, grapes, and more. Please let Cindy Pekarek know if you think you are coming.



Your 2026 Vestry

Senior Warden



Judy Darrell

Junior Warden:



Ken Gomeringer

Clerk



Brian Caskie



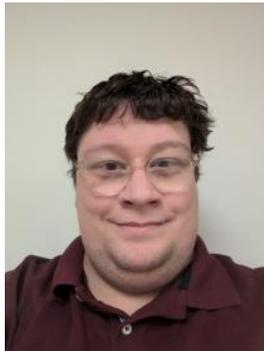
Rick Horejs



Vince Cummings Jr



Margie Crawford



Josh Cain



Kristi Smith

Treasurer



Marcia Adams

Recorder



Jennifer Moffet

Vestry Meeting Minutes February 12, 2026

Attendance:

Judy Darrell, Ken Gomeringer, Rick Horejs, Jr., Margie Guy, Josh Cain, Brian Caskie, Kristi Smith, Marcia Adams (Treasurer), Jenn Moffett (Recorder)

Excused: Vince Cummings, Mtr. Margaret Brack (Rector)

Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer by Josh.

Listening Guidelines

Listening Guidelines were not reviewed due to the Rector's absence.

Devotion

Devotion was offered by Judy.

M1 – Approval of January Minutes

- Item: January 2026 Vestry Minutes
- Motion: Brian Caskie
- Second: Margie Guy

Approved: Unanimous

The January minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Marcia Adams presented the report.

Per Vestry instruction, the minutes will include **Endowment Fund and Total Assets only**, and will no longer include detailed breakdowns of unrestricted, temporary, or other internal categories.

Financial Summary for the Record

- **Endowment Fund Total:** \$549,631.33

Total Available Assets (including Endowment and Reserve Funds): \$783,007.55

Discussion included:

- Removal of Deacon Ted mileage, professional development, and sabbatical support line items from the 2026 budget.
- Sabbatical support budgeted at \$150 to be removed.

Discretionary fund previously assigned to Deacon Ted to remain open pending his direction for distribution.

Action Item: Ken Gomeringer will contact Deacon Ted regarding disposition of remaining discretionary funds and report back at the next meeting.

M2 – Approval of Treasurer's Report

- Item: February 2026 Treasurer's Report
- Motion: Brian Caskie
- Second: Judy Darrell

Approved: Unanimous

M3 – Motion to Move or Close Accounts Due to Change of Personnel

- Item: Removal/closure of Deacon Ted-related accounts and budget lines
- Motion: Judy Darrell
- Second: Rick Horejs, Jr.

Approved: Unanimous

M5 – Motion to Pay the Bills

- Item: February 2026 Bills
- Motion: Kristi Smith

Second: Josh Cain

Approved: Unanimous

Old Business

Copy Machine Lease

No update received. Item is tabled until next meeting.

VPOD Checklist

Updated checklist has been finalized and placed in the foyer cabinet. Vestry members must complete the checklist during assigned duty and designate an approved closer if leaving early.

Item closed.

Eagle Scout Project

Tabled pending update from Vince Cummings.

Probation Program Room Use

Awaiting confirmation from program coordinator.

Item tabled.

Vestry Retreat

The annual Vestry Retreat will focus on planning initiatives for 2026–2027 and strengthening Vestry leadership.

M4 – Vestry Retreat Scheduled

- Item: Vestry Retreat
- Motion: Judy Darrell
- Second: Josh Cain

Approved: Unanimous

The retreat will be held **March 7, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Location pending final confirmation.

New Business

Roof Repair

Clarification needed regarding billing for warranty-covered repairs.

Item tabled pending Rector follow-up.

Handicap Bathroom Repair

The toilet in the women's bathroom was repaired. Initial seal replacement did not resolve issue. A cracked tank required full replacement.

- \$250 paid for plumbing service call
 - New toilet donated
- \$50 paid from Rector's discretionary fund for installation assistance

Item closed.

New Vestry Members

Kristi Smith and Josh Cain were welcomed as new Vestry members.

Item closed.

Clerk of the Vestry

Brian Caskie volunteered and was affirmed to serve as Clerk of the Vestry.

Item closed.

Grants from Endowment

Total Grants Approved: **\$17,730.55**

Scholarships and Grants Awarded

- \$1,000 – Bellevue Together (Winter Coats)
 - \$1,000 – D.O.K College Boxes
 - \$500 – Women of Spirit
 - \$500 – Choir
 - \$4,130.55 – Parking Lot
 - \$4,000 – Landscaping
 - \$3,100 – Christian Education
 - \$3,000 – Youth Mission & Camp Scholarship
- \$500 – Bell Choir

Scholarship Detail

The **\$3,000 Youth Mission & Camp Scholarship Grant** supports:

- Mission trip participation
- Camp scholarships

Pilgrimage support

Funds must be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the grant request.

Ministry Assignments

Ministry oversight responsibilities were reviewed and confirmed as follows:

- **Josh Cain** – Communications (POC: Deacon Terri); Computers (shared with Brian Caskie)
- **Brian Caskie** – Christian Education (POC: Cindy); Youth (POC: Lori Stevens); Acolytes (POC: Cindy & The Rev. Margaret Brack)
- **Rick Horejs, Jr.** – Hospitality (POC: Chris Darrell, Susan, Bill French); Special Events (POC: Marcia) Kitchen (POC: Jenn Cass, Lori Stevens)
- **Kristi Smith** – Lay Eucharistic Ministers (POC: Jennifer Wilson); Lay Eucharistic Visitors; Altar Guild (POC: Barb & Sue)
- **Margie Guy** – Daughters of the King (Judy); Vocal Choir (POC: Ali); Bell Choir (POC: Deacon Terri)
- **Vince Cummings** – Outreach; Evangelism (POC: Deacon Terri); Men of Spirit (POC: Chris Darrell)

Good of the Order

- Cleaning service bids remain under review.
- Legal action regarding parking lot repair reimbursement is being handled through the Diocese.

Closing Prayer

Closing prayer offered.

M6 – Motion to Adjourn

- Item: Adjourn Meeting
- Motion: Rick Horejs, Jr.
- Second: Josh Cain

Approved: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: March 12, 2026

Vestry Retreat: March 7, 2026 (9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of January 31, 2026

	Actual	Budgeted	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Contributions	\$26,161.00	\$17,277.50	\$26,161.00	\$17,277.50
Other Income	\$556.80	\$564.70	\$586.80	\$564.70
Total Income	\$26,717.80	\$17,842.20	\$26,717.80	\$17,842.20
Expenses	\$18,471.01	\$20,569.59	\$18,471.01	\$20,569.59
	\$8,246.79	-\$2,727.39	\$8,246.79	-\$2,727.39

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!



Mar 6 - First Friday Sack Lunch - noon
Mar 7 - Vestry Retreat - 9am - 3pm
Mar 8 - Day Light Savings
Mar 8 - Finance Committee Meeting - 11am
Mar 8 - Celebration of Life with Alan Wyant - 4:30pm
Mar 12 - Vestry Meeting - 6:30pm
Mar 14 - Altar Guild polishing - 10am
Mar 15 - Lenten Soup & Study - 5:30pm
Mar 19 - Remembrance Gathering - 2pm
Mar 21 - Daughter of the King day of prayer - 10am - 2pm
Mar 22 - Acolyte and Lay Readers Holy Week walk through - 11:05am
Mar 22 - Lenten Soup & Study - 5:30pm
Mar 25 - Journeys Palm Folding - 7pm
Mar 29 - Apr 5 - Holy Week - See front page



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Ministries	Mar 1	Mar 8	Mar 15	Mar 22	Mar 29
VPOD	Brian C	Kristi S	Rick H	Vince C	Judy D
Hospitality Team 9:30 am Greeters ,Ushers & Coffee Hour Host	Team 4	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1
Spirit Hub	Journeys	DOK	Hospitality - Kitchen	Hospitality - Greeters	LEV
Altar Bread	—	—	—	—	—
Recycle Team	Jan S	Marcia A	Susan H	Karen G	Jan S
LEM Saturday 5:00 pm	Brian C	Toby W / Kathy B	Charlotte A	Kristi S	Charlotte A
LEM Sunday	Cindy P	Doug A	Cindy P	Doug A	Cindy P
LEM Sunday 9:30 am	Michele H Jan S	Lori E Brian C	Vince C Michele H	Grace W Jen W	Jan S Carol S
LEV	Team 2	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
Acolytes Crucifer Torch Torch	Isaiah JH MacKenzie C Evelynn C	Kyper M Amanda N Ailynn M	Vincent C Olivia H Mya H	MacKenzie C Evelynn C Kyper M	Isaiah JH Amanda N Olivia H

Please submit articles for the
 April 2026 FLAME to the
 church office by March 19th.
 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 @ 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study @ 10:15 am

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am–1:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am–Noon

Rector's Sabbath:

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 19th.

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org

Email: holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org

The Flame
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1305 Thomas Drive
Bellevue, NE 68005-2973
402-291-7732