



The Flame

August 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 2022

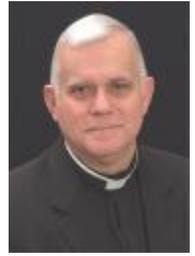
2022 Vacation Bible School theme was "The Armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-18)

We had 6 kids and 8 volunteers. It seems like overkill, but we had 4-5 year old boys in total! We also had 7 year old and 3 year old girls.

We had a great time learning about God's Armor that helps us keep people safe. They learned important lessons like telling the truth, doing what is right, and having faith in God's wisdom and power. Ali Clark led the kids in songs about "God's Army" and "I'm not scared of the Boogie Man." Jan Sinram and Ginny Babcock had neat food each day that represented the different parts of the armor: shield, sword, breastplate, etc. Jean Cook and Judy Darrell teamed up again to help the kids make their own pieces of armor. This included The Helmet of Salvation, Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Sandals of the Gospel of Peace, Shield of Faith, and Sword of Spirit. Kathy Buser created wonderful props and a fantastic castle too! Anika and Ciaya Smith helped everywhere, especially for the outside games. The final day we had a pizza party and finished with pictures of 3 knights at the castle. Thank you so much to all of our volunteers and especially to the parents that shared their kids with us! Be sure to join us for Sunday School this August! Thank you to everyone that helped create such a spiritual, fun experience for our kids and volunteers!



Fr. Tom's Tidbits



As we prepare for the kick-off of our fall program, I am excited to say that I begin my preparations with a brief, but long overdue, and desperately needed vacation. If everything goes as planned, I am busy blowing bubbles off the coast of Jamaica. Diving really helps me put things in perspective. On the surface, there is always something demanding my attention; but when diving, the only thing I must remember to do, is breath. Surrounded by the sea life, I am reminded how we are part of something bigger than ourselves, and that life goes on, despite our efforts to control what happens around us. After a week of diving, I am truly rested, not always physically, I am up early in the morning to get multiple dives a day in, but definitely spiritually.

One reason may be that, while diving, I am constantly amazed by the beauty the oceans behold. The schools of fish, the lobsters, crabs, squid, along with the occasional octopus, rays, and turtles, are amazing to watch, and like when I once rode my bicycle through small towns, when I lived in England, my presence goes largely unnoticed. Are there dangers? Yes. There is fire coral that will give one a really painful rash, barbs on sea urchins, jellyfish, and lionfish that can be equally unpleasant, and equally dangerous sharp edges on the many wrecks divers enjoy exploring. And while watching an occasional reef shark or moray eel swim gracefully past, one must never forget that even though they are not typically aggressive, if disturbed or threatened, they can really ruin one's day. Despite all this, there is something peaceful about gliding through the water observing life and its many wonders.

I wonder how often we forget to take the time to just breath, to sit back and admire the beauty that surrounds us, instead of constantly focusing on the dangers more than the blessings. If we were to do so, how might it impact what we feel are the priorities in our lives? Avoiding the dangers does not make them any less dangerous, but when we understand that poking them is not a good idea either, we just might find peace in our co-existence instead of dealing with the resulting conflict poking can cause. It might also help us identify our common priorities, those things that are really important, and that bring out the best in one another.

While I am deeply grateful that we do not have a lot of conflict within our community, as we begin to re-evaluate our parish priorities, and possibly realign some of our ministry teams, it is likely that we will poke the worst of all dangers within the church, the deeply held belief that we have always done it that way. Please, help your Vestry minimize the impacting of the pokes they will do, by being part of the conversation. As thoughts and ideas are solicited, either in sermons, articles in the Flame, or through parish surveys, please share yours so that all voices are heard. In this way, the Vestry may avoid an unnecessary poke or find themselves blessed in learning of a way forward they had not considered before.

Together, we are the church, and our mission and ministry is to help people learn of, and embrace, God's love as revealed in and through Jesus Christ, by being a welcoming place where people meet Christ and grow in their relationship with God through our worship, service, and fellowship.

Father Tom

**The office will be closed Monday,
September 5 in observance of
Labor Day**



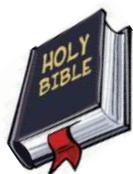
Parish Life

Parish Picnic

On Sunday (21 Aug), beginning at 11:00am and going until 2:00pm, we will hold our annual summer picnic as we prepare to kick off the fall program. This year we will gather at the Everett Park Pavilion, next to the splash pad on Betz Dr., and right across from Greensboro Ave. Bring your lawn chair, and either a side or dessert to share, and enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the shade. CHS will provide the entree, paper products, and we hope to once again rent a snow cone maker to help cool the summer heat. Weather permitting, the city has said they will make sure the splash pad is available for use. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this cherished parish event.



Bible Study resumes



We will resume our mid-week bible study on Wednesday (31 Aug), beginning at 10:15 am in the parish hall. Each week, this one-hour study, will look at the readings for the next Sunday to explore more deeply the lessons we will hear. Join us for the study, and if able, come early and join us for our 9:30am service in the Chapel as well. Handouts with readings for the coming month can be found at the Spirit Hub beginning Sunday (28 Aug).

Ministry Team Leader Meeting

As we look ahead to our next program year, Fr. Tom would like to meet with our parish Ministry Team Leaders on Saturday (27 Aug), beginning at 11:30am, following the mobile pantry. During this meeting we will look at our ministry's priorities, upcoming calendar events, discuss 2023 planning, and share with one another the challenges and goals ministries are focusing on in the short term. Snacks and beverages will be provided for what is expected to be a one-hour to 90-minute meeting. A reminder email will go out Monday (15 Aug) inviting Ministry Team leaders (or their representative) to attend. If you are a ministry team leader and do not get this email, please contact the office.



Education for Ministry-Online

We are registering new participants into EfM for the 2022-2023 year. Education for Ministry is a cohort group that reads on their own and discusses their thoughts during our meeting time. We also learn how to approach life using theology and faith as tools. We have great discussions and lots of fun.

We meet every Tuesday night at 6:15pm on Zoom. We have participants from across the US! Please join us! For registration information contact:

Cindy Pekarek (402) 670-0575; circlecnp@gmail.com

or Ruth Richter richterfamilyne@gmail.com

Or by signing the guest book found at the Spirit Hub.



Youth Activities

Journeys Staff Meeting

Last month, our Journeys' staff gathered to look at the youth program for fall 2022 – Spring 2023. We have built a very hopeful and we believe exciting plan to support not only our Journeys youth (6th-12th grade), but also parish youth between the ages of 10-18. Journeys will once again meet on Wednesday evenings, beginning with dinner at 6:30pm, and breaking into small groups between 7:00-8:00pm. At 8:00pm, we will share our worship of Compline online, and afterwards enjoy a brief snack before heading home. If you are in grades 6-12 (or between the ages of 12-18) our staff would love to have you join them on Wednesday evenings. We ask all prospective and returning youth to pre-register for this year's program by signing the guest book found at the Spirit Hub.



Journeys Parent's night



Our Journeys parent's night will kick off our fall program on Wednesday (31 Aug), beginning at 6:30pm. We will start off our meeting with a shared meal and then introduce parents to the 2022-23 program calendar and our Journeys staff. This is a great time for parents of both prospective and returning youth to see what is planned, to offer suggestions, and learn how they can help make the program even more enriching. Don't have kids and would like to know how you can help? Why not join us to learn how. We ask parents and visitors to sign up at the Spirit Hub to let us know you will be attending so that we can plan dinner accordingly.

Backpack blessing

As the new school year begins, we invite parish youth of all ages, teachers, and school employees to bring their backpacks, bookbags, and themselves to church for a special blessing and prayers for a safe and successful year of learning during service on Saturday (13 Aug) or Sunday (14 Aug).



Sunday School Open House



Welcome back to Sunday School! We offer 2 classes this fall. One classroom is for 3-8yrs. Anika Smith is the lead teacher for the littles. Jean Cook teaches the older class 8-12 year olds or through 5th grade. Parents are always welcome to stay or peek in at any time. We have a very open-door policy for families.

Please stop by and register your child/children for Sunday School on open house Sunday, August 14th. We will have classrooms open, teachers to meet, and a craft or two for the kids. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Pekarek.

Crafting Sunday

This summer Sunday School students have had a little extra craft time while their parents had coffee. We made phone stands for Father's Day, played with paint, and made popsicle crafts. Our last Craft Sunday will be in classroom #1 during the Sunday School open house. Students of all ages are welcome to join us. Yes, we had teenagers last time and they had fun! We hope to see you there.



Outreach

Collection for Bellevue Together

Thank you to all those who contributed school supplies and funding in support of Bellevue Together's "Back to School" program. Your generosity not only provided a healthy supply of pens, pencils, crayons, backpacks, and notebooks, to meet the academic needs of area youth, we were also able to provide over 100 packages of baby wipes and over 100 pair of girls and boys underwear that will make a difference in the lives of those who receive them. As our partnership with this local ministry expands, we may find there are other needs we can help meet within the local community beyond at risk youth. Watch for future articles to learn more about the work of this ministry.



Mobile Pantry

Our next mobile pantry is scheduled for Saturday, 27 Aug. Help us spread the word by telling anyone you know who may be in need of grocery assistance. If you are on Facebook, please share the Pantry Event that is typically posted two-three days before the event. As always, volunteers are needed to help with distribution of the groceries we receive from Foodbank for the Heartland. If you have an hour or two you can offer, please prayerfully consider stopping by. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 9:30am and enter through the Thomas Dr parking lot entrance. We begin distribution at 10:00am and finish at 11:30am (or whenever the food runs out, whichever comes first.) In the event we have groceries remaining, they are given to the Bellevue Food Bank for distribution to families in need.



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Its from our church... we've been called up for active duty."

Youth Emergency Services Landscaping Project

On Friday, July 8th a small but mighty team of CHS members (Karen Gray, Kathy Buser and I) joined forces with an intern, John, and the Youth Emergency Services (YES) Volunteer Coordinator, Blake, to do some yard clean up and landscaping at the new YES shelter.



The weather was perfect for a morning filled with service, laughter and getting a little bit dirty. We thought we were going to work at the maternity group home, but learned that we were actually at the new shelter for boys and girls that had opened about six weeks earlier. Blake and John provided the tools and plants for the landscaping as well as the vision to make the shelter look like something other than an abandoned house.

In less than 3 hours, Kathy and Karen were able to plant all of the plants, remove the weeds in the yard and do a little clean up while Blake and John removed the dead vines from the two-story building. I went back and forth between the two helping where I could and successfully covering myself in muck.

Towards the end of effort, some of the residents came outside to see our work. I enjoyed hearing them delightfully say how pretty everything was and that they wanted to do more. They asked if there was a place where they could grow vegetables and Blake instantly responded with "Sure!" Although it's too late this year to start, the residents are looking forward to getting their hands dirty and growing their own food next year.

In going back and forth between the different projects, I realized that we walked into something with little information, but a strong desire to make a difference. In just a few hours our work inspired those who have very little of their own to work to better what they do have. I was reminded that in the end, the service God calls us to does not have to be big, world changing or highly detailed and organized. The simplest tasks can start a ripple effect to make positive change in our community.



I hope to find other opportunities for us to serve Youth Emergency Services and will invite you to participate. Whether you are inclined to do so or not, know that we are all called to serve one another and our community. From praying to financial donations to a physical presence, there is something that each of us has the ability to do and it can be a lot of fun too.

**The Church is not a building.
It's the people**

- Acts 8:3
- Acts 12:5
- 1 Cor. 3:9
- 1 Peter 2:5



Vestry Meeting Minutes July 14, 2022

Members Present: Leslie Nutting, Ken Gomeringer, Cindy Pekarek, Judy Darrell, Margie Crawford, Michele Hagen, Lori Erickson, Fr. Tom

Fr. Tom opened the meeting with prayer at 6:35 pm.

Teaching/Study

The Vestry discussed chapters 6 & 7 of Tereasa Angle-Young's book *unconnected*. Numerous thoughts and ideas were shared when examining worship and music at CHS. One notable comment described worship as the same every week. While this is an important aspect to our tradition, the Vestry discussed ways to move beyond repetition and move to more experiential worship. Music became the main topic of how to do so, noting that hymns need to be more singer friendly and upbeat. Some suggestions included increased use of the piano, adding acoustical and instrumental accompaniment, adding hymns from other denominations to our CHS Songbook, and the possibility of adding a screen to project words in lettering large enough to be seen.

When discussing our liturgy, we recognized (as the author highlights) that it can be a bit complicated for those who are unfamiliar with our practices. A suggestion was made to offer periodic instructional Eucharists, and preaching series intended to highlight the core beliefs and why we do what we do. Fr. Tom suggested that it might help to have members of the parish share what they believe, either as part of a Sunday message, or in written form in the Flame. The Vestry book study will finish next month with a review of *Community Outreach*.

Information Updates

The Vestry looked at parish events in the coming month

Treasurer's Report

Marcia Adams was unavailable to meet in July, Fr. Tom reviewed the reports. Our June pledge income was only at 88% and our YTD income is at 90%. Both amounts are below the average for this time of year. It was noted that while we are running below the expected curve, the families behind in their giving have been faithful in meeting their pledges over the years and that the slow down may be a result of families dealing with the rising inflation.

A review of expenses noted very little out of the ordinary with expenses for the month on par with the budget. It was noted however, that our Gas bill will most likely finish the year above budget due to the higher costs we incurred before turning off the boiler for the summer. Year-to-date, our expenses are at 96% of budgeted amount.

Fund expenditures for the month of June included expenses for the youth group lock-in, Oktoberfest advance spending, Outreach, family assistance, and music system adjustments. Also noted was the transfer of \$2000 from the Gray memorial fund to the Endowment Fund as the family's request. It was also noted that due to market fluctuations, our Endowment Fund lost \$17,509 in the month of June.

Lori motioned and Judy seconded **M07-14-01** to accept the reports as presented. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Judy motioned and Cindy seconded **M07-14-02** to pay the bills. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Discussion Items

Parish Picnic: Judy Darrell provided an update on Parish Picnic planning. The pavilion adjacent to the splash pad in Everett Park is reserved for Sunday (21 Aug) from 11am -5pm. The church will provide the entre (hamburgers and hot dogs), paper products, and water, and members are invited to bring a desert or side to share. To provide additional shade, those members who have a canopy tent are asked to bring them, and all are encouraged to bring a lawn chair. Also, those who have outdoor yard games are asked to bring them so that we can enjoy some activities while youth enjoy the splash pad.

Ahchen's departure: Judy is circulating a card for parish signatures and collecting donations to give Ahchen on Sunday (31 Jul), his last Sunday with us, during the 9:30am service (as we have done with past interns who have served our parish).

Kidwell Phone System: With the announcement that our current phone system will no longer be fully supported by the providing company beginning next year, Leslie will explore the Kidwell Phone system as a possible replacement.

Decision Items:

Stained Glass Panels: The Vestry had no further stained-glass recommendations beyond those already considered. Fr. Tom will now try and order several panels (from the approved list on hand) to be hung in the sanctuary windows later this summer.

New Church Signage: The Vestry discussed the purchase of two new outdoor signs. One to replace the damaged sign on Betz Road (at the bottom of the hill) and one outside the church office. Fr. Tom motioned, Margie seconded, and the Vestry approved by unanimous consent **M07-14-03** to purchase new signage.

Funds Movement: The Vestry discussed the movement of \$1500 from the Rector's Discretionary Fund to the Building Fund. Fr. Tom motioned, Ken seconded, and the Vestry authorized by unanimous consent, **M07-14-04**, the transfer of funding.

2022 Grant Funding: The Vestry discussed the distribution of funds retrieved from the Endowment Fund to ministries as approved at the February meeting. Michele motioned and Leslie seconded **M07-14-05** to approve the transfer of funding as requested.

Meeting Adjourned

Lori motioned, and Judy seconded **M07-14-06** to adjourn. Vestry approved by unanimous consent.

Next scheduled meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday (18 Aug) at 6:30pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of June 30, 2022

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 11,524.90	\$ 16,704.42	\$ 88,699.90	\$ 100,226.50
Other Inc.	\$ 316.00	\$ 1,457.33	\$ 9,413.56	\$ 8,744.00
Total Inc	\$ 11,840.90	\$ 18,161.75	\$ 98,113.46	\$ 108,970.50
Expenses	\$ 19,446.90	\$ 18,873.83	\$ 108,648.78	\$ 113,243.00
Balance			\$ -10,535.32	



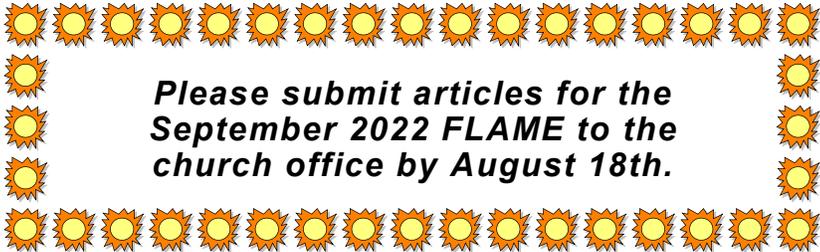
UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!



- Aug. 14 - Sunday School Open House & Craft day - 10:45 am**
- Aug. 14 - Backpack Blessing - 8 & 9:30 services**
- Aug. 14 - Finance Committee Meeting - 10:45 am**
- Aug. 18 - Vestry Meeting - 6:30 pm**
- Aug. 21 - Parish Picnic - 10:30am - 3 pm - Everett Park**
- Aug. 27 - Mobile Food Pantry - 10:00 - 11:30**
- Aug. 27 - Ministry Team Leaders Meeting - 11:30**
- Aug. 28 - Sunday School starts - 10:30 am**
- Aug. 31 - J2A starts - Parents Night - 6:00 pm**

LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

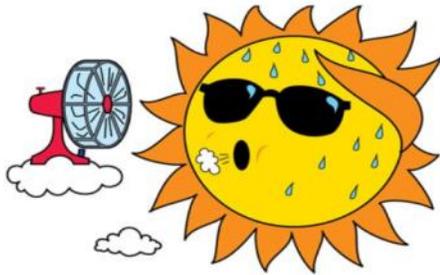
Ministries	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
VPOD	Lori E	Kristi S	Ken G	Michele H
Hospitality Team 9:30 am Greeters ,Ushers & Coffee Hour Host	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Recycle Team	Jan S	Marcia A	Lynda W	Karen G
LEM Saturday 5:00 pm	Alberta Y	Charlotte A	Kristi S	Charlotte A
LEM Sunday 8:00 am	Rick S	Ken G	Doug A	Rick S
LEM Sunday 9:30 am	Terri S Jennifer W	Vince C Lex G	Michele H Jan S	Lori E Anika S
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
 September 2022 FLAME to the
 church office by August 18th.**



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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: 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 August 18th

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org

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The Flame
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