



The Sheaf

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

April 2022

*I have loved you with an everlasting love:
Therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you.*
— Jeremiah 31:3b

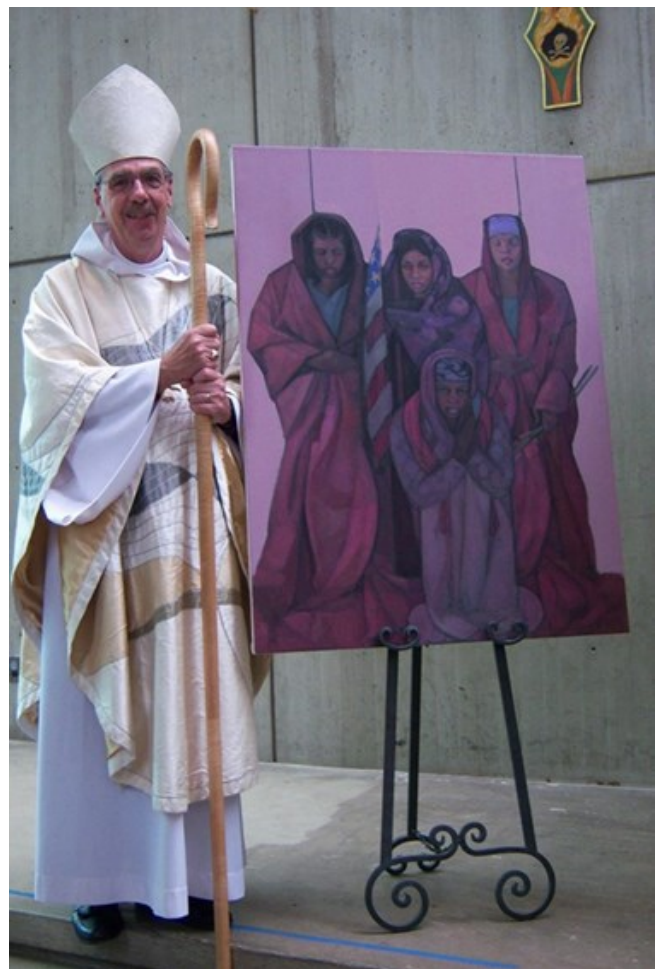
An Easter Greeting from Bishop Ely

Submitted by: The Right Reverend Thomas Ely

This picture was taken at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, in Burlington, Vermont, on Easter Day 2017. The painting, titled ***Embrace Hope - Give Love a Chance***, is the creation of one of my favorite Vermont artists, Janet McKenzie, whom some of you might know from her painting “*Jesus of the People*,” which was selected in 1999 as the winner of the National Catholic Reporter’s competition for a new image of Jesus.

About this painting Janet wrote on her Facebook page: “*I created this painting in response to worldwide hate and violence. I was raised with an immigrant mentality and I believe many of you were too. I would like this image to be used for good especially as we approach the sacredness of Holy Week.*”

The war in Ukraine is very much on my mind as I write these words. So are the many other examples of hatred and violence that infect our lives, our communities, and our world today, including the proliferation of hate speech over social media, racially motivated violence, and the harsh words and actions often directed at sexual minorities, refugees, and immigrants, as well as Native American people here in North Dakota and elsewhere.



Continued on page 2

For me, all these incidents are expressions of human dignity violations and they disturb me greatly. In fact, they often make me weep, not unlike Mary at the tomb that first Easter morning.

As we enter the season of Easter this year, perhaps, like me, you bring your sorrow, confusion, anger, and frustration at such things as these with you before the cross of Christ and the light of the Paschal Candle. Perhaps, like me, you come offering all you are thinking and feeling about these and other such incidents of hatred and violence before the heart of God. As I do that, I find myself holding tightly to the invitation of this painting - ***Embrace Hope - Give Love a Chance***.

One of the readings that Easter morning in 2017 was from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, proclaiming that God will not desert Israel, that her exile in Babylon will end, and the return from exile will be like a new exodus:

*Thus says the LORD:
The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,
the LORD appeared to him from far away.
I have loved you with an everlasting love:
Therefore, I have continued my
faithfulness to you.
(Jeremiah 31:2-3)*

I believe it was this same everlasting love of God that greeted Mary Magdalene that first Easter morning and offered her grace in the wilderness of her life, as she stood weeping outside the empty tomb.

This Easter season I invite you to hold tightly to the invitation of Janet's painting and make its message a mantra for your day-to-day life and living. And to help you in that effort, I share here the prayer I offered that Easter Day in 2017 and commend it to you.

God of Empty Tombs and Grace in the wilderness, we lament of the hatred and violence present in our world today.

On that first Easter morning, the Jesus Movement was given a sign of hope as love emerged victorious over the grave, and the fear, hatred and violence that sought to entomb it.

Today, we pray for all those who suffer because of hatred and violence in our world, including refugees, victims of war, victims of domestic and sexual violence, victims of gun violence, and all whose dignity is violated by any form of bias, bigotry, or discrimination.

By the power of the Risen Christ, stir up our hearts, we pray, with the strength, wisdom, and courage to embrace hope, give love a chance and offer grace in the wilderness.

Amen.

Faithfully yours in the name of the Risen Christ,



To learn more about the artwork of Janet McKenzie, visit her website:
<https://janetmckenzie.com/>

Embrace Hope

Give Love a Chance

Resurrection Faith in the Diocese of North Dakota

Submitted by: Steve Godfrey, Diocesan Minister



This is my first spring in North Dakota. A year ago, in April, I was in conversation with the interview team about the possibility of working together here. We were getting our Covid vaccines and still in the last throes of that deep pandemic winter. So our meetings were all online. Dave and I took a big road trip at the beginning of May to see what North Dakota was like, since we had never been here before. It seemed just fine. We loved the wide, open space and there was even some decent weather. The people seemed friendly and by that time things were starting to open up a bit. It was the beginning of a hopeful summer and an exciting year.

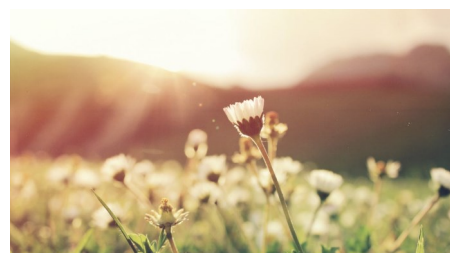
The year has passed quickly as we have continued to wrestle with the ups and downs of Covid, but more importantly as we have begun to live into our future as the Diocese of North Dakota. We had a wonderful convention gathering and the Diocesan Council, Ministry Support Team, and various committees have continued to focus on plans for renewal of our ministry together: establishing a circle of leadership, staffing administrative needs, providing for sacramental ministry in all congregations, launching the Northwest Ministry, increasing communication across the diocese, organizing a congregational development team, renewing the School for Ministry, healing divisions, investing in youth and next generations of leadership, and establishing a structure for discerning a new season of ministry, following The Way of Love (episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love).

With the addition of Jessica Thielke as diocesan administrator, our team is nearly complete. We have a brand new website and modern

communication structure and the expertise to leverage these tools for bringing the diocese together and to handle our many administrative responsibilities and provide support for congregations. So, a winter of struggle with these challenges is opening up to a spring and summer of what I hope will be ministry development at all levels:

- Building trust among our diverse communities
- Congregational development with the Partnership for Renewal (partnershipforrenewal.com)
- Encouragement and resourcing of local teams and leaders
- A new and expanded School for Ministry and diocesan learning community
- Building on and expanding our youth and young adult ministries and leadership
- Discerning a New Season of Ministry for the Diocese of North Dakota

Lent is a transitional time, remembering Jesus' time in the wilderness – and the Israelites' wandering centuries before, clearing out behaviors, assumptions, and just plain stuff that distracts us from fully engaging the potential of the love of God; revealed in our Lord's offering of himself and invitation to join him on the Way of Love that leads beyond struggle into abundance of life beyond our imagination: Resurrection! I feel like we are beginning to emerge from a wilderness time of struggle and faithful discernment into an abundance of possibilities. I am excited to see how this new life will manifest more and more as we continue to work together for the renewal of Episcopal faith and ministry in the Diocese of North Dakota.



Calendar & Upcoming Events

Bishop Ely's Upcoming Visitation and Travel Schedule:

- May 5-8 — Bishop Ely in North Dakota
- May 17-23 — Bishop Ely in North Dakota
- May 20-21 — Bishop at the Reconciliation Retreat;
- May 22 — Sunday visitation: Grace Church, Jamestown
- June 21-27 — Bishop Ely in North Dakota
- June 23-27 — Bishop Ely at the Niobrara Convocation

Where is Bishop Ely?



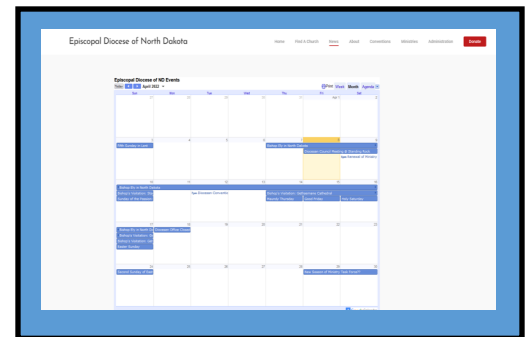
Diocesan Events and Dates to Note

- May 6-7: New Season of Ministry Task Force
- May 14: Diocesan Council Meeting (Zoom)
- May 20-21: Reconciliation Committee Retreat
- May 30: Diocesan Office Closed (*Memorial Day*)
- June 1: *The Sheaf* articles are due
- June 8-18: Bishop Ely on vacation

Online Diocesan Calendar

Along with our brand new website (see article on page 5), we have also created a calendar for the Diocese. Check it out at www.ndepiscopal.org/calendar!

If you have events for the calendar, please email them to Jess at office@ndepiscopal.org and we will get the calendar updated.



Diocesan Convention

The Most Rev. Michael Curry will visit the Diocese of North Dakota on October 21-24. He will be attending our Diocesan Convention (in Fargo) and celebrate with the Cathedral Congregation and the Diocese at the 150th Anniversary of Gethsemane Cathedral.



Ministry at St. Stephens, Fargo

Submitted by: Reverend Jamie Parsley

Bishop Tom Ely visits St. Stephen's



It was a bitterly cold morning when Bishop Tom Ely visited St. Stephen's on January 23, but inside the church it was warm and cozy and filled with masked parishioners. During Mass, five young people (a sixth person was sick that morning) were Confirmed, Received into the Episcopal Church or Reaffirmed their faith.

Those being confirmed were Stephanie Garcia and Andrea Olsen

Those being received were Jordan Schroeder and Josh Stalboerger

And reaffirming her faith was Amy Morrow

We also welcomed five new members to our parish.

A potluck was held in the Undercroft after Mass, after which Bishop Tom answered questions and engaged the congregation in conversation.

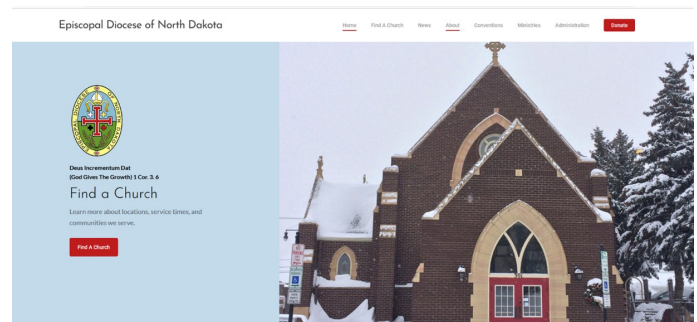
St. Stephen's is grateful for Bishop Tom's visit and especially for the affirmation and support he brought to our very eclectic, open, affirming, inclusive, High Church parish.

Thank you, Bishop Tom!

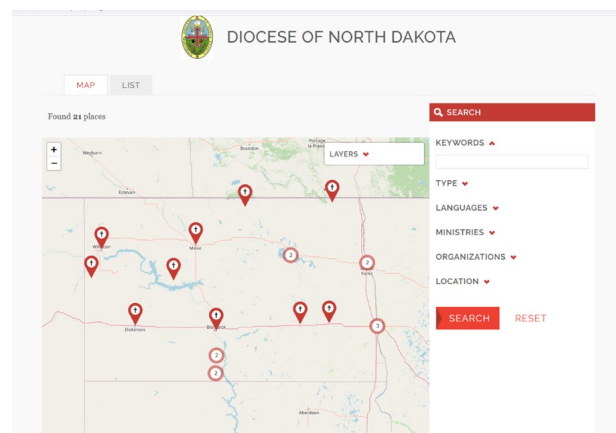
New Website

www.ndepiscopal.org

Did you know the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota has launched a new website? Over the past several weeks we have been working to update our website and move it to a new hosting site. We are hoping to make the website accessible for everyone, where all of our communications and documents can be found in one spot. When you get a moment, check it out! The website address has not changed, you can find it at www.ndepiscopal.org.



See an error on the website or something that did not make it over in the transition?? Email office@ndepiscopal.org and we will work on getting everything back up and running!



Death Announcement: *Odella Henley*

It is with sadness we announce the death of Odella O. Henley of All Saints', Valley City. The memorial service for Odella will be held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, April 23, 2022, at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Valley City, with the Rev. Bart Davis presiding. Visitation will be the hour prior to the service. She will be laid to rest with Charles at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral in Fargo, ND.

Odella's full obituary may be found at <https://www.lerudschuldt.com/obituary/odella-henley>



Diocesan Administrator — Jessica Thielke

Submitted by: Reverend Steve Godfrey



Bishop Ely and I are excited to announce the appointment of Jessica Thielke as Diocesan Administrator. Jess has served at the Lutheran Church of Christ the King in Moorhead for the last eleven years, first as Office Administrator and Children's Ministry Director, and more recently as Director of Children's Ministry and Christian Education. In these roles she has managed communications in various media, organized events, recruited and led numerous volunteers, assisted with financial management, and overseen the office and information technology. She is excited to be focusing now on these and other administrative areas of work, where she feels God is particularly calling her at this time, and to share her gifts with the church in the broader diocesan context

Jess is a deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and comes strongly recommended by two Lutheran bishops and several congregational leaders, who spoke highly of her professionalism, multiple gifts for ministry, and capability in taking on the level of ministry and responsibility required to be our Diocesan Administrator. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Religion, with a Church Professions Certification,

from Concordia College, and a Master of Arts in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, from Luther Seminary. She lives in Fargo with her two dogs.

Along with our interview team members, Stephanie Garcia, Sandy Holbrook, and Vanessa Strobel, we feel Jess will be a very good fit as part of our diocesan Ministry Support Team and Circle of Leadership.

Feel free to reach out to her with questions, comments, concerns, or ideas. Jess is more than willing to listen and take notes, always striving to make things run smoothly for our Diocese. You can reach her on the diocesan phone or by email. Jess will typically be in our diocesan office Monday -Friday from 9am-5pm. Reach out and say hi!

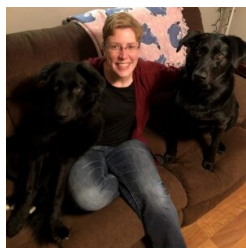
Phone Number: 701-235-6688

Email: office@ndepiscopal.org

A note from Jess:

Hi, I am Jess! I am the new Diocesan Administrator for the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota. I am so very excited to be partnering with you as we participate in shared ministry with one another and the world. I am located in the Fargo office, monitoring the office email, answering the diocesan phone, and here for each one of you. I have two dogs whom I love (Bug and Sadie) and I have a background in church work with our full communion partners, the ELCA Lutheran Church. I'd love to chat with each of you at some point as I continue to learn the Diocese and learn how to best assist each of you.

—Jess





Episcopal Ministry in Northwestern North Dakota

Submitted by: Reverend Kim Becker

Dear Beloved in Christ,



Spring hasn't quite sprung, but as we approach Easter, there are certainly signs of hope here in the Northwest, as evidenced by lots of activity: NDEF grants have been submitted to support

the NW ministry initiative, as well as to request funding for childcare coverage and a therapy dog training program (All Saints, Minot, in partnership with Chaplain Mark Bradshaw from Minot Air Force Base). St. Paul's, White Shield also submitted for tech support once their building is back open and we are hoping for good news soon on their application for a UTO grant for creation care/environmental reparations.

On April 2nd, leaders from NW churches gathered with Bishop Tom and Diocesan Minister, Steve Godfrey, on Zoom to connect and share some fellowship, a reminder that the Northwest initiative is not a program, but a ministry, with very exciting energy and movement of the Holy Spirit! I am excited to see what blessings Spring will bring as we continue to

develop spiritual gifts at each of the individual congregations. We hope to have an in-person gathering in summer to celebrate our collective ministry.



In the meantime, all are invited to attend a prayer service on April 20th at 7pm on the campus of Minot State University, a partnership between All Saints and Lutheran Campus Ministry to support LGBTQ students.

Thank you for keeping the Northwest congregations in your prayers. Creator is doing new and wonderful things in this region!

In Christ's peace, power, and love,
Kim Becker

Northwest Regional Coordinator
Nwcoordinator@ndepiscopal.org; 240.472.1102

Bishop's Visitation to Standing Rock

Submitted by: Reverend John Floburg

Bishop Ely made a visit to Standing Rock over the Palm Sunday weekend. First in gathering the Diocesan Council and participating in their work, then Palm Sunday Liturgy and meeting with several members of Standing Rock's congregations and ministry team. It was a time of good gathering, fellowship, worship and eating as it all combined to create a good Bishop's Visitation. One of the benefits of being at Prairie Knights Casino and Lodge is that through meeting people at work and play there was a sense of the footprint of the Episcopal Church in this area.

Bishop Ely's sermon paved the way for a good, if not somewhat difficult discussion, around the topic of Land Acknowledgements. Of the purposes that Jesus came into this world to confront - and to say as the Gospel repeats "enough of this!" - what is Jesus continuing to say through our history and into these days? In his visit Bishop Ely provided the Covid Relief Funds that all of the congregations were eligible to receive. Youth Ministry, Soup Kitchen, Care of the Earth and Vegetable Garden and ministry to restore to our congregations some of what the Covid Pandemic challenged and took from us.

Then we sent him along his way in order to get out of harms way as the April Blizzard was known to be churning its way north.



Rt. Rev. Ely receiving a Star Quilt

L-R: Lila Brought Plenty; Rt. Rev. Tom Ely; Carmine Goodhouse

Creation Care Corner

Brought to you by the Diocesan Creation Care Committee

CREATION CARE TIP:

Eat less meat!



I know it is quite difficult to tell North Dakotans to lessen their intake of meat, but did you know it could significantly help the environment?

According to the MIT Climate Panel¹, the ranching industry adds a significant amount of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane to our atmosphere. Going vegetarian for a year would decrease the average American's carbon footprint by one metric ton of CO₂ emissions.

If you do choose to eat meat, I recommend limiting consumption from industrial sources to once or twice a week. Also look into finding locally sourced meat products (check out Gabe Brown² and his sustainable farm!). These practices can contribute both to a healthier you and a healthier environment!

¹<https://climate.mit.edu/ask-mit/why-have-i-heard-eating-meat-bad-climate>

²<http://brownsranch.us/>

³<https://drawdown.org/>

CREATION CARE TIP:

Reduce food waste!

According to Project Drawdown³, “roughly a third of the world’s food is never eaten, which means land and resources used and greenhouse gases emitted in producing it were unnecessary.” Some easy steps for reducing food waste include:

- Eating smaller portions at home
- Sharing large dishes at restaurants
- If you don’t eat everything you make, freeze it for later or use the leftovers as an ingredient in another meal
- Instead of throwing away your food scraps, compost them. This way you are giving nutrients back to the soil and reducing your carbon footprint.

For additional ideas for reducing food waste, see these websites:

- www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/en/c/1309609/
- www.nrdc.org/stories/reducing-food-waste-eight-tips-home-cooks.

Diocesan Council Meeting Update

Submitted by: Stephanie Garcia

What is it like to hold a Diocesan Council meeting at the end of Lent? Prayerful; guided by deep contemplation. The Council convened between April 8th-9th, grounded in prayer with the goal of providing guidance for the North Dakota Diocese.

We initially reflected on some of the important issues that may be challenging our congregations; holding special reverence for those who may be marginalized. We discussed issues including burnout, limited available clergy, and the need to foster growth for the church during the (hopefully) last chapter in the COVID-19 pandemic. We reflected on potential solutions that may help connect us to our congregations while using all available gifts and talents. To this end, we discussed a model of *Mutual Ministry*. Through a framework of Mutual Ministry, the responsibilities of the church are shared throughout the congregation. Here, every baptized person ministers using their unique talents. This model leaves me personally (and hopefully all of us) to reflect on

using my unique talents in my daily life, especially as a member of my church.

Father John Floberg united us in prayer throughout the day by leading us in devotionals. During the business end of the meeting, we were challenged to carefully consider multiple items including the future of the Episcopal Foundation for Ministry in Higher Education, Our Fair Share funding, and the New Season of Ministry. We also discussed exciting news, including outreach in the Northwestern region, utilization of Episcopal Relief funds, plans from the new Creation Care Committee, and updates about the 2022 convention.

The journey through Lent reminds me of the struggles associated with living and the need to reflect inwards during challenging times. The Diocesan Council remains prayerfully committed to the future of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota. It is my hope that each of us can foster renewal in our personal lives and within our congregation.

Sunday Collects

The collect is a short prayer, especially one assigned to a particular day or season.

April 24: Second Sunday of Easter

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May 1: Third Sunday of Easter

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

May 8: Fourth Sunday of Easter

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May 15: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May 22: Sixth Sunday of Easter

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



May 29: Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

June 5: Day of Pentecost

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

June 12: First Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

June 19: Second Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

June 26: Third Sunday after Pentecost

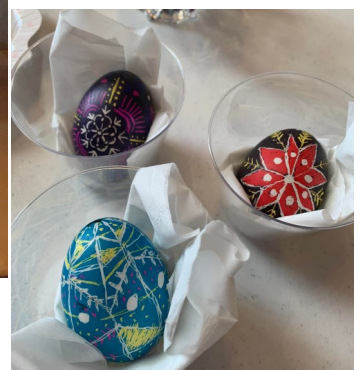
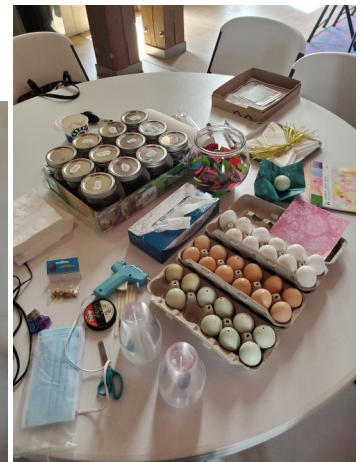
Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ukrainian Easter Egg Decorating: Gethsemane Cathedral

Submitted by: Ericka Morlan



On Saturday April 9th Gethsemane hosted two Ukrainian Easter Egg making workshops to honor the people of Ukraine and begin our Easter preparations. The 2-hour classes had about a dozen people each and was led by MJ Cayley, a local member of FMVA- Fargo Moorhead Visual Artists. The participants learned about Ukrainian Egg Folk Art and created their own individual egg. The process includes melting wax over a candle into a special tool. The wax is used to create a design on a blown out egg. Luckily for MJ, she has a tool to blow out the eggs! The egg is then dipped in dye. The wax and dye processes are repeated to add different colors and layers. The wax creates barriers so the color that is below it remains while the rest of the egg takes on more dye. When the wax is melted off, the final egg design is revealed. As Cayley said, “each egg tells a story. This was storytelling before books.” A free will offering was collected to support Ukrainian refugees through Episcopal Relief & Development. A total of \$227 dollars was raised! We couldn’t have been more excited about the interest in the class, and both classes quickly filled. We hope this will become a new Easter tradition for us at the Cathedral.



Renewal of Ministry and Welcoming New Rector

St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church

Submitted by: Joanne Lassiter, Senior Warden, St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church

Photo credits: Joanne Lassiter and Jason Thoms

The Renewal of Ministry, a truly joyful event, took place on April 9 at St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church to welcome Fr. Hal Joseph Weidman as our new full-time Rector.

This event was led by the Rt Rev'd Thomas Ely, Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of North Dakota; Bishop Craig Schweitzer, Western North Dakota Synod-ELCA, and the Rev'd Dr. John Floberg, Standing Rock and the Standing Committee, who also preached. Diocesan and local clergy from the surrounding area attended, including Pastor Deborah Blood, the United Church of Christ's Northern Plains Conference Minister.

Senior Warden Joanne Lassiter and Junior Warden Tom Hopkins confirmed to Bishop Ely that St. George's chose and called Fr. Hal to be the full-time Rector, and he accepted. Bishop Ely then read the Letter of Institution. The Renewal of our Baptismal Vows followed.

Fr. Hal presented several members of the congregation with symbols of the commitment he has to ministry with and to all of God's people. He gave parishioners: an oil stock for anointing, a copy of St. George's directory, a Lakota Hymnal & book chronicling Black Elks's life, a toolkit containing a hammer/duct tape/screwdriver/pliers, and a prayer book.

The celebration of gifts continued as Fr. Hal gave Hannah Gendron and Michelle Weidman [St George's Christian educator] a host of books to be used in the new children's ministry of *Godly Play* (thank you Michelle Weidman for this vital ministry to be shared with all North Dakota Episcopal congregations.) He also gave books to the parish for use in our education ministries to adults.

The Rev'd Dr. John Floberg offered the sermon and told the story of first meeting Fr Hal while he was serving in South Dakota. John recognized the passion and commitment Hal showed for Christ, the people, and creation. He wondered how he could bring Hal to North Dakota.

That possibility became a reality when Fr. Hal became Rector (PT) for St. George's and Canon Missioner (PT) for the Diocese. Eventually, St. George's was able to call Fr. Hal as their full-time Rector.

Shirel Zillier and volunteers hosted a light reception including finger foods, fruit pizza, and lemon bars after the service. Finally, fellowship continued into the night and ended with the faithful assisting the Altar Guild in erecting palms for the next day's Palm Sunday worship. Thank you to the Altar Guild chair, Sharon Tudor, and the Guild's hard work.

Fr. Hal reminded us that at St George's, his ministry is not only his but the entire congregation's. As Christians, we minister best when we come together, rejoice and serve the Lord, and serve others, especially those beyond the confines of St. George's.

I want to remind everyone to be joyful, serve the Lord and others. Let us not forget the song *Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee* by Henry J. van Dyke. The first verse is as follows:

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!*

Continued on page 12



L-R: Sister Kathleen Atkinson (Ministry on the Margins); Andrea Stomburg; Dn. Beth Lipp, Joanne Lassiter, Sr. Warden



Rev. Hal Weidman



Reading the Letter of Institution

L-R: Dn. Beth Lipp; Tom Hopkins, Jr. Warden; Rt. Rev. Tom Ely; Rev. Hal Weidman; Joanne Lassiter, Sr. Warden



Rt. Rev. Tom Ely; Rev. Hal Weidman



Cruet of oil for healing

Rev. Hal Weidman; Dn. Beth Lipp



Bible Presentation

Rev. Hal Weidman; Mark and Kate Hanlon



Asperging

L-R: ELCA Bishop Craig Schweitzer (WND Synod); Hannah Gendron, crucifer; Rt. Rev. Tom Ely



L-R: Rev. Hal Weidman; Dn. Beth Lipp; Rt. Rev. Tom Ely; ELCA Bishop Craig Schweitzer (WND Synod); Rev. Deborah Blood, Bishop in the UCC, Northern Plains



Rev. Hal Weidman; Tracy Juhala



Jacinda Simmons; Rev. Hal Weidman



Michelle Weidman; Hannah Gendron, crucifer



L-R: ELCA Bishop Craig Schweitzer (WND Synod); Rt. Rev. Tom Ely; Hannah Gendron, crucifer; Rev. Hal Weidman



Rev. Hal Weidman; Joanne Lassiter, Sr. Warden



L-R: Dn. Beth Lipp; Pr. Gretchen Deeg, UCC; Rt. Rev. Tom Ely; Rev. Hal Weidman; Canon Zanne Ness; ELCA Bishop Craig Schweitzer (WND Synod); Rev. Deborah Blood, Bishop in the UCC, Northern Plains; Rev. John Floburg



L-R: Arlene Gray, organist; ELCA Pr. Gail Haggerty, The Heart River Lutheran Church, Mandan; Rev. Steve Godfrey, Rev. Kim Becker, Rev. Bob Hoekstra, rector; Hannah Gendron, crucifer; Rev. Deborah Blood, Bishop in the UCC, Northern Plains Conference



Rev. John Floburg

Updates to the Church from the House of Bishops

Office of Public Affairs

A Pastoral Letter:

In the spirit of our understanding of Jerusalem as the Holy City of Peace, we call on all Episcopalians to hear the words of our Presiding Bishop, “As we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as the Bible teaches us, we must find ways to work for the peace of Jerusalem, which will be found where there is true equity for all, true justice for all, and true freedom for everyone. Here it is clear that this is not simply an idealistic dream. It is the only hope, and we must not rest until it is realized.”

The peace of Jerusalem is a promise not yet attained, but it is proclaimed by the prophets of all three Abrahamic faiths. Their words embody principles of love, humility, forgiveness, putting others first, and a preference for the marginalized.

We can have little doubt that Jesus commands us to lift up those who are oppressed, hold accountable any who misuse their power, abhor the use of violence, exhibit penitence and offer accountability for sins that governments have done on our behalf, and act always in the spirit of peace with justice.

In this quest for peace and justice full respect must be accorded to the civil rights and religious interests of all persons and all holy places in the city must be equally protected and accessible to faithful Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and to all people of goodwill.

We remind ourselves that Christians have an obligation to devote ourselves to renewed ecumenical and interfaith discernment and collaboration in the spirit of our shared values. Jerusalem should be honored as a community for all Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and serve as a symbol and a focal point for such work as the Holy City continues to exert its theological and spiritual

authority as a sacred space of ultimate reconciliation and unity.

Now is the time to work toward a unity of perspective on Middle East peace and justice with our Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant siblings, as well as with the Jewish and Muslim communities who share our hope for peace. Our journey as the children of the Abrahamic traditions is a journey to a future built on shared values and commitments for the common good of all who call Jerusalem and the Holy Land their home.

Deeper communion with those in the region who already work for peace is also vital. Scores of organizations work at the grass roots on behalf of freedom, dignity, and economic opportunity for all, promoting mutual understanding across barriers of cultural and religious difference. Their efforts deserve the Church’s understanding and support. In all this work, our permanent partners are the Christian communities in the Holy Land, especially the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. As the numbers of Palestinian Christians continue to decline, the region loses more potential bridge-builders and conciliators, as well as an integral part of the diverse landscape. We pray that our Church will encourage them to persevere, learn more about the region’s historical complexities, deepen our ties with its people and peace-building institutions, and promote ecumenical and interfaith peace with justice.



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We offer this letter for the sake of God's people, especially those in Israel and Palestine, whose faces are lit by neighborly light from the holy city of God itself. Why Jews, Christians, and Muslims have been called to live together in Jerusalem and the Holy Land is a mystery known only to God. But it is our responsibility as those who are part of the family of the children of Abraham to do all in our power to further and to deepen the commitment to peace with justice, and to its realization. We ask all to join with us and with the Psalmist: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers. For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity; because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."

An Addendum to Pastoral Letter

At the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas, The Episcopal Church, as it had over the past four decades, continued to address the complexity and contentious difficulties in the Middle East by resolutions. Among the adopted resolutions was B003, affirming the Church's belief that Israel and Palestine should share Jerusalem as their capital and encouraging the whole Church "to engage earnestly in education, advocacy, and prayer for the renewal of a diplomatic and political process for peace in the region, and for the peace of Jerusalem." The resolution called on the House of Bishops to offer a pastoral letter "supporting Jerusalem's prophetic identity as the Holy City of Peace."

A Statement from the House of Bishops on the Conflict in Ukraine:

To the faithful in Christ Jesus throughout The Episcopal Church,

We are gathered at a moment of profound jeopardy to the principles of international law and peace. As we meet and pray together as a House of Bishops, Ukraine—an independent, sovereign nation that has posed no threat to others beyond its borders—has been invaded by military forces of Russia, without provocation and without justification.

On December 1, 1991, the people of Ukraine voted in a nationwide referendum on the question of their future. Nearly eighty-five percent of the electorate took part in that referendum. The question set before them was simply this: "Do you support the Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine?" More than ninety percent of those casting a vote voted yes. The independence of Ukraine was, and remains, an act of clear, principled self-determination. In the thirty years since then the people of Ukraine have, through

challenges and difficulties, forged a strong sense of national purpose and identity.

There is a direct link between our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of all people in Christ and the demand to respect the will of nations to determine their own destiny—the rule of *jus cogens*, in international law—when expressed freely through the ballot box. We acknowledge and lament the failure of many of the nations where The Episcopal Church lives and gathers to respect and defend that fundamental principle in their own policies and actions in the years since the founding of the United Nations.

Yet that acknowledgment must not stay us from denouncing the utter depravity of the war now unfolding in Ukraine. It is evident that Russian military forces have directly and indiscriminately attacked civilian residences, medical facilities, even agreed corridors for the humanitarian withdrawal of civilians in areas of combat. These actions are a fundamental violation of the rights and dignity rightly accorded all people, and a flagrant breach of international norms.

As the bishops of The Episcopal Church, we pray:

- That the nations of the world call upon the Russian government to cease immediately this unjustifiable violence, especially against the innocent;
- That our siblings in the churches of Russia and Ukraine remind their leaders of Christ's commandment that we love our neighbors as we love ourselves—a commandment we believe provides no justification for violent conflict unless in the defense of women, children, the elderly and those otherwise vulnerable;
- That God protect and defend those who, with great courage, have stood and spoken against the choice for war in the counsels of their governments, their churches, and in the public square;
- That God support and encourage our churches in Europe, and our sister churches of the Anglican Communion present there as well, who even now are receiving refugees in the cities they serve, and helping them rebuild shattered lives;
- That all refugees, regardless of the reasons for their flight or the country of their origin, be received with equal dignity, equal hospitality,

and equal treatment;

- That the work of diplomats and peacemakers and the voices of all those in authority labor without ceasing to bring a swift and just end to this conflict, and the preservation of Ukraine's independence and autonomy under conditions of security and tranquility;

And that the Prince of Peace, whom we know also to be the Judge of Nations, will work through us and all followers of Christ to build a more peaceful and just world—where all people can live in safety, where the will of all for their nations can be freely expressed and fully lived out, and where God's dream of a Beloved Community of all people and nations is realized through the works of mercy and compassion.

We urge all faithful members of the Church to support the relief of the Ukrainian people as it is being carried out by Episcopal Relief and Development and by the Convocation of the Episcopal Churches in Europe.

Camp Allen, Texas
March 19, 2022

Resolution adopted by the House of Bishops:

March 19, 2022

In light of the baptismal covenant's promise to see Christ in all persons, and the recent and any actions by elected officials in Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, New Hampshire, Michigan, Missouri, Florida, Arkansas, Ohio, North Dakota, Mississippi, South Dakota, Nebraska, Indiana, South Carolina and any other states, municipalities, and school districts targeting transgender children and their families, we, the Bishops of The Episcopal Church gathered at Camp Allen, Texas,

in March 2022, voice our love and continued support for all persons who identify as transgender or non-binary and their families. We decry legislative initiatives and governmental actions targeting trans-children and their families. We urge all in our Church to create safe spaces and shield all people from harassment based on gender identity.



HOUSE of BISHOPS



The Sheaf

Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
3600 South 25th Street
Fargo, ND 58104-6861
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