



# THE SHEAF



When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who speak that we hear, each of language? Parthians, residents of and Cappadocia, Asia, Phrygia and the parts of Libya and visitors from Rome, proselytes, Cretans and languages we hear them deeds of power.” All perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But Peter, standing with voice and addressed and all who live in known to you, and listen these are not drunk, as with new wine.”



But Peter, standing with voice and addressed and all who live in known to you, and listen these are not drunk, as only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ - Acts 2:1-21

the eleven, raised his them, “Men of Judea Jerusalem, let this be to what I say. Indeed, you suppose, for it is

*Deus Incrementum Dat | God Gives the Growth*

*I Corinthians 3.6*



A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota  
Pentecost Edition ~ June 2025



# Saying Good-Bye Well is a Last Best Gift

*The Rt. Rev. Brian Thom*

This admonition has proven true throughout my ministry. Whether it concerns a loved one who is passing into God's nearer presence or a congregation that is saying farewell to its minister, the gift of saying good-bye well is one that leaves all parties to a separation more appreciative of the lives shared and less burdened by the demands of the parting.

And, sadly, to make the point via the negative, most of us have likely been through endings that have lacked such grace and continue to leave a bitter taste in our mouths or a wound upon our hearts.

One of the hallmarks of good good-byes is gratitude. While assuming full knowledge of the foibles of any individual person or congregation, expressions of gratitude actually help the giver sort out the most blessed of the memories and claim publicly the benefits of the previous relationship. Therefore, it is my dear pleasure and warrant to express my thanksgivings for having been a Dio. North Dakota colleague of The Rev. Kim Fox.



As this edition of the *Sheaf* comes to you, Pastor Kim has completed her duties in our Diocese and is on her way to Lancaster County, VA, to begin a new ministry. Her nearly four years of ministry in the northwestern corner of our diocese has been a blessing to those she directly served and those of us who served around her. As a bishop, I can easily commend her skills and heart for ministry. As a colleague, I found her counsel in diocesan matters ever intuitive and forthright.

For my own part, however, I gratefully acknowledge that Pastor Kim helped deepen my awareness of the dynamics of Native American tribal ministry and its interplay with Anglo culture, including, at times, the necessity to shine a gentle light on the nuances of white privilege which effected my deliberations and some actions. I am a better person, and bishop, for it.

As is said, when the student is ready, the teacher appears. I give thanks to God, that for these past eighteen months, this student (provisional) walked beside a teacher who could reach him.

Thank you, Kim. Fare well.

*+Brian*

*O Lord, we give thanks for Kim's time among us and for her contribution to our common life. Bless her as she goes forth; be with those who leave and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.*

★ —Book of Occasional Services; Pg. 148



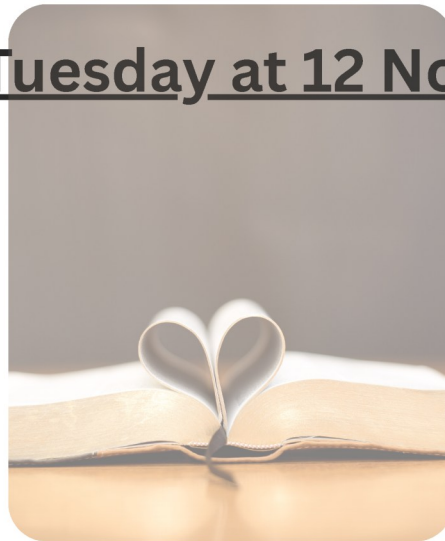
Join us for ...

**ALL are welcome to  
join!**

# Live Lectionary LECTIO

Every Tuesday at 12 Noon CT

**PRAY your  
sermon into  
being...**



**...or have some  
great Bible  
study time**

## **What to expect:**

### **Opening Prayer**

**3 translations of the coming Sunday's Gospel**  
**3 simple questions with opportunities to share**  
**45 minutes of transformational study**

Episcopal Diocese of ND

Join Zoom Meeting

**See you here ->**

Meeting ID: 867 4915 3092

Passcode: 1234

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86749153092?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86749153092?pwd=ywDo8JFkGabZ2KElDNi9lbWhok2Rm4.1)  
[pwd=ywDo8JFkGabZ2KElDNi9lbWhok2Rm4.1](#)

**Weekly Readings:** The Episcopal Church follows the Revised Common Lectionary. Weekly readings can be found at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lectionary>. Each week on Tuesday, we will be using the readings for the upcoming Sunday.



# Looking for a Little Summer Pentecost Reading?

*The Rev. Harvey Henderson, St. Paul's, Grand Forks*

Join me this summer in reading the Acts of the Apostles, a New Testament book which is not included very often in the Sunday Lectionary. And let me suggest you read it as you would a novel, without pausing to check commentaries. Here's a little introduction to guide your reading.

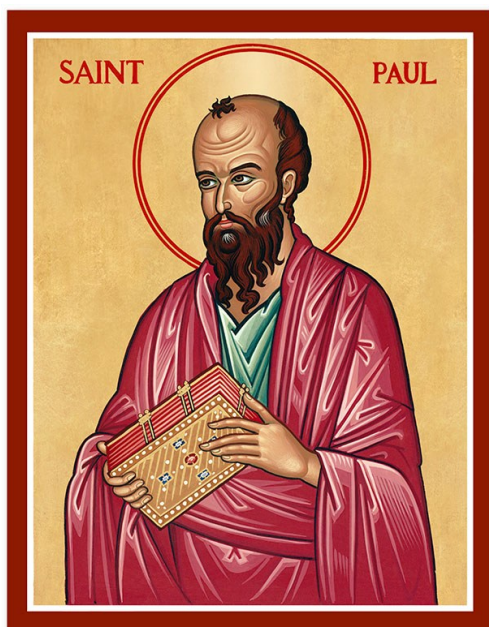
The Acts of the Apostles is almost certainly the second volume of Luke's two-part series on the history of the relationship between God and the people of God. (see Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-2) Part I of that history is the Law and the Prophets, with John the Baptist being the 'last of the prophets.' Part II is the time of Jesus, the time when the Kingdom of God is proclaimed. (Luke 16:16) And Part III is the time of the Church, beginning with the Pentecost experience, the ensuing first generation of the 'Church,' and continuing until the day Jesus returns. We are living in Part III.



The author shares the plot of Acts early on when he writes that Jesus says, *"But you (the apostles) will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Rome)."* (Acts 1:8)

Chapters one through seven tell the story of the Jerusalem church. Chapter nine opens with an account of the rather dramatic conversion of Saul, a Jew who was at the time a staunch critic and persecutor of those Jews who became followers of Jesus.

In chapter ten we read of the vision which Peter receives and then proclaims to those gathered in the city of Joppa, *"I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears (God) and does what is right is acceptable to God."* (Acts 10:34-35) This is a big deal. The Good News of God is for the Jews but also for the Gentiles (non-Jews). In that time, from the Jewish perspective, there were only two kinds of people in the world, Jews and everyone else!



Chapter thirteen opens with the commissioning of Paul (Saul) and Barnabas as missionaries to the city of Antioch. We read, *"the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off."* (Acts 13:2-3) Antioch was a large Greek city and then became a regional capital of the Roman Empire. It was a major center of early Christianity and it was there that the followers of Jesus were first called "Christians." (Acts 11:26)

From Antioch, Paul and his disciple Silas, begin a very long missionary journey by land and sea through western Asia and modern-day Greece, establishing 'Christian' communities in places like Galatia, Philippi, Thessalonica, and Ephesus, all of which we know something about because of Paul's letters in the New Testament. They end up in Jerusalem, where things don't end well, or at least it seems that way!

The closing chapters of the Acts of the Apostles are rather dramatic. Paul is arrested by some Jews in the Temple in Jerusalem and accused of “teaching everyone everywhere against our people, our law and this place; more than that he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.” (Acts 21:28)

In the end Paul announces to his captors that he is a Roman citizen and as such he is entitled to be tried before the emperor in Rome. (Acts 22:25-29) The local governor Festus says to Paul, “You have appealed to the emperor; to the emperor you will go.” (Acts 29:12)

Remember when Jesus said to the apostles before his ascension to heaven, “But you (the apostles) will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth (Rome).**” (Acts 1:8) Here is the irony. Paul gets the Romans to take him to Rome where he continues to preach the good news of Jesus. As readers we want to know what happened to Paul when he appeared before Caesar. Luke leaves us in suspense.



## Farewell Letter from our Missioner for Reconciliation, Creation Care, and Congregational Ministry Development

The Rev. Kim Fox

Dear Beloved in Christ,



As I prepare to leave for the Diocese of Virginia, please know that it has been my great honor to serve with you over the last four years, first as Northwest Regional Coordinator and then as Missioner for Creation Care, Reconciliation, and Congregational Ministry Development and Priest-in-Charge at St. Sylvan’s, Dunseith and St. Paul’s, White Shield. It has also been a privilege to serve on the diocesan Ministry Support Team.

I so enjoyed the opportunity to serve at such diverse parishes: St. Peter’s, Williston, St. Michael and All Angels, Cartwright, All Saints, Minot, and most recently at St. Paul’s, White Shield and St. Sylvan’s, Dunseith. I had the privilege of meeting and ministering with so many faithful and talented individuals—you will not be forgotten. It was an especial joy to celebrate Pentecost at St. Paul’s, White Shield, where the Holy Spirit is definitely moving in terms of continued work on church building renovations and ongoing fulfillment of the United Thank Offering grant projects in creation care/environmental reparations. It was an honor to serve as priest following the retirement of The Rev. Duane Fox, our only elder Indigenous priest in the diocese. Please join me in giving thanks for Father Duane’s long witness and service.

*Continued on page 6*



My last day in this diocese will be Trinity Sunday at St. Sylvan's, Dunseith. I have been blessed to have been their priest for the last full liturgical year and to witness the election of Tyrrell DeCoteau to Standing Committee and Raphael DeCoteau to Council as West Regional Representative. It was also wonderful to see St. Sylvan's host the latest North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries meeting. St. Sylvan's is faithfully following where the Spirit leads.



The Holy Spirit is indeed moving and inspiring great things at these two resilient Native congregations. Please keep these churches in your prayers. I want to thank The Rev. Joe Hubbard for his willingness to continue offering services in Dunseith and in White Shield. I know these congregations will thrive as they move forward in faith, building on momentum and good works already begun!

When I arrived in North Dakota, I was alone in my Subaru Forester. I am leaving over 203,000 miles later in a new (used) Subaru Outback and this time will be sharing the driving with my amazing husband, Robert Fox, without whose help and support I could not have accomplished nearly as much. Robert's deep involvement and institutional knowledge of this Diocese will surely be missed, more than my mere few years here. He will continue his seminary studies at Bexley Seabury in Chicago in a program designed especially for Indigenous students. Robert has served as my de facto "deacon," lector, altar guild, flower guild (somebody had to carry the Easter lilies in!), driver, and sherpa (carrying supplies and vestment bag every Sunday). I am grateful to have met Robert and, given his family here, you can be sure we will back to visit. Robert will also return occasionally to continue to serve as ceremonial leader for his tribe. Some of Robert's relatives were sent to Hampton Indian boarding school in Virginia, so we will be making a pilgrimage there once we move. We both plan to stay active in Indigenous ministry. I will also continue to serve on the United Thank Offering Board, representing another province and was recently invited to join the Jordan Project, a Lilly-funded grant opportunity and ELCA initiative for female clergy serving rural congregations.

I will hold all of you in prayer as you elect a new Bishop Diocesan and I thank both former Bishop Tom Ely and Bishop Brian Thom for the opportunity to have served during part of this transitional period. I have been grateful for the support of Jess Krzewina, our Diocesan Administrator, and it was a pleasure to welcome Ashley Hubbard onto our team, whose ordination I joyfully anticipate.

There is no word for goodbye in Cherokee, only "until we see each other again." In English the word *goodbye* is a contraction of "God be with you." So until we meet again, may God be with you all. "God gives the growth" and I look forward to hearing about all the exciting growth that will continue to happen here in the Diocese of North Dakota, inspired by the Holy Spirit!

From the Pentecost hymn Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song: "With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer, with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare: Come, Holy Spirit, come." Amen and alleluia!

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

***From Left to Right: St. Paul's, White Shield; St. Sylvan's, Dunseith; St. Peter's, Williston [building no longer owned by the Diocese]; All Saints, Minot; St. Michael and All Angels, Cartwright***



# Global Partnerships in Mission

In May 2025, Kathy Dunn and The Rev. Alyssa Stebbing from the Diocese of Texas traveled to North Dakota. These two dioceses have a renewed companion relationship and with this trip Kathy and Alyssa were able to connect, establish, and in some cases re-establish, friendships and the kindred nature of being siblings in Christ. Joining the Texans were Bp. Brian Thom, Mary Massad (St. John's, Dickinson), Ashley Hubbard (Diocesan Missioner) and Jessica Krzewina (Diocesan Administrator).

We traveled to multiple churches and met with many faithful members of the Diocese of North Dakota and engaged in so many inspiring stories; bringing home to Texas the inspiration of lay led churches and the power that comes from the faithful. The churches may be hundreds of miles apart, but the spirit that lies within is the same. We, Kathy and Alyssa, along with the Global Partnerships in Mission, are committed to sharing the mission of Christ in our churches. Specifically, we are looking forward and continuing to seek ways for us to share in our resources and knowledge. Texas has much to learn from North Dakota! Our small congregations are inspired by how effectively the laity lead.

Texas is looking forward to walking with you as you transition with a new bishop and joining with you in many ministries to come. We can't wait to return to our friends in North Dakota!

*Conversations and Meals Shared at: St. George's, Bismarck; All Saints, Minot; Church of the Advent, Devils Lake; St. Thomas, Fort Totten; Grace Church, Jamestown.*

*Other Stops: Scandinavian Heritage Association (Minot), Geographical Center of North America (Rugby), Dakota Thunder (Jamestown); North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum (Bismarck); and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center (Washburn).*





# Gateway to the B+E+S+T

Jessica Krzewina, Diocesan Administrator

The Bishop's Executives and Secretaries Together (BEST) Annual Conference serves as a pivotal gathering for all executives and administrators who work directly with a bishop. This year's conference was held in St. Louis, MO. The annual conference provides a platform for each of us to collaborate, share best practices, and enhance the administrative functions to support not only our bishops, but our diocese as well.

BEST is a professional association of members who desire to keep on top of trends and technologies, willing to share expertise with each other across our Provinces. "Members helping members" is how we are often described, whether we are sharing best practices, tips and tricks, or simply checking in with one another throughout the year.

Outside of the annual conference, we have an internal website with a Q&A board that is extremely active [and I have used on a number of occasions]. It is a gift to be able to post a question, and within a day receive answers from fellow BESTies with suggestions and guidance on how to proceed. Why recreate the wheel, when we are a network who shares ideas?!

BEST currently has a membership of around 130. The association is supported mainly by our bishops, the national church, and current BEST members.

This year's conference included workshops on cybersecurity, enneagrams, relationships, and our roles as "pastors." We were also blessed by a fabulous presentation by Presiding Bishop, Sean Rowe. Whichever province hosts (this year Province 5), those bishops come together for a "bishop's panel," which included The Most Rev. Sean Rowe (Presiding Bishop); The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows (Diocese of Indianapolis); The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson (Diocese of Missouri); The Rt. Rev. Anne Jolly (Diocese of Ohio); The Rt. Rev. Brian Burgess (Diocese of Springfield); and The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter (Diocese of Wisconsin).



**LEFT:**

*Photo Credit: The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson*

*The Province V Bishops, and the Presiding Bishop, who hosted our Bishop's Panel.*

**RIGHT:**

*Photo Credit:  
Joseph Roberts  
(Diocese of Texas)*

*Kathy Dunn (BEST President) kicking off our conference.*







*Photo Credit: The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson*

*Worship at Trinity Episcopal in St. Louis, MO.*

Three other things worth noting: we always worship together. Spending time together in God's Word with God's people is deeply fulfilling. A line from The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson's sermon from our gathering is still resonating in my heart and soul: "We believe in the resurrection, but we often practice resuscitation." It continues to make me ponder, what in my life am I allowing myself to resuscitate, instead of clearing the way for death and resurrection? What in our diocese are we trying to resuscitate, instead of allowing God to resurrect something new?

We also find time to have fun together. So much of what we do in the church-world is big and serious and sometimes heavy. It is important to release stress when and where you can, with people you know are in your corner.

Finally, we share meals together. I do not think there is anything more central to our Christian faith (outside of Eucharist and Baptism) than sharing meals together. Time and again throughout the New Testament, we see Jesus sharing meals with those he cared about. There is something sacred and holy that takes place through a shared meal.

I am blessed beyond measure to be able to attend the BEST conference each year. It is something I look forward to, and count down the days to attending (as of writing this, there 328 days to go!). Next year Alexandria, VA is hosting us! Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention...I met one of my very BEST friends at my very first BEST conference, Kathy Dunn (Diocese of Texas). If you ever get the chance to meet her (and you will, or have recently) she is a light in the darkness and a joy to be with.

*Read more about Kathy's visit to North Dakota with Global Partners in Mission on page 7.*

**RIGHT:**

*Photo Credit: Joseph Roberts (Diocese of Texas)*

*We always have a Province dinner together. Province VI (our province) and Province VII almost always dine together, as Province VI is on the smaller side. The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle (Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Texas) treats us all to dinner. This year we dined at 1111 Mississippi in St. Louis, MO. Lots of laughter and delicious food abounded!*



**LEFT:**

*Photo Credit: Kathy Dunn (Diocese of Texas)*



*A CLYDESDALE...named Jet! I am in love with all things "animal." The Anheuser-Busch Brewery is housed in St. Louis, MO, which means there are Clydesdales to be pet, loved on, and seen! A group of us went on the Clydesdale Tour, and we each got a chance to pet and take a picture with a Clydesdale. Jet comes in at 18 hands high (around 6 feet at the highest point above the shoulders) and 1,800 pounds...he is a big guy! I asked Bp. Brian and the dMST if I could bring him back to the office as a church mascot. They weren't too keen on the idea, but you can't blame me for trying!*

# Modern-Day Slavery: The Global Crisis of Human Trafficking

*Ashley Hubbard, Diocesan Missioner*

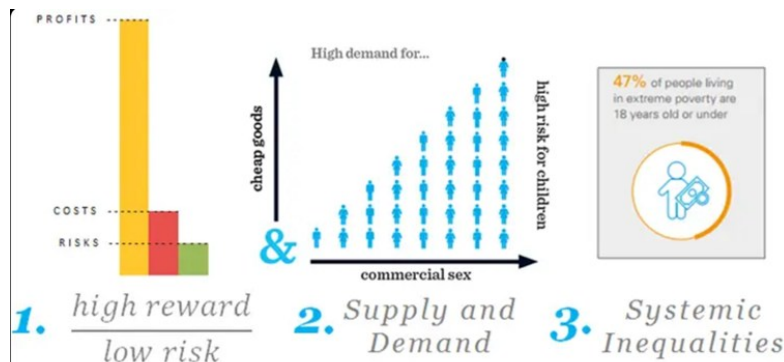
I recently attended 31:8 Project's Bakkan Human Trafficking Summit (BHTS) in Bismarck, ND. This annual two-day event hosted over four hundred members of law enforcement, healthcare workers, legal professionals, social workers, educators, community leaders, advocates, and survivors of human trafficking from all around the state of North Dakota and beyond. I was drawn to this event because I am interested in exploring the link between extractive services and human exploitation in the context of Native America – which includes the complexities of tribal land jurisdiction; a legacy of violence, oppression, and cultural genocide against Indigenous peoples; and the particularities and impacts of historical trauma. I also appreciated the event's emphasis on Indigenous resiliency using culturally specific healing practices and promoting a trauma-informed, survivor-centered framework complete with survivor panels, breakout sessions, and keynote addresses.



*North Dakota Attorney General Drew Wrigley welcoming over 400 people to the 2025 BHTS at St. Mary's Central High School in Bismarck, ND*

## What you need to know...

Many Americans believe that slavery ended with the Civil War under President Abraham Lincoln. Slavery, however, continues today – in the form of human trafficking – and this hidden crime is a big business generating a \$32 billion-dollar-a-year industry.<sup>1</sup> According to the United Nations' International Labour Organization, human traffickers victimize around 27.6 million people worldwide.<sup>2</sup> What is more, victims of human trafficking can be any age, race, gender, nationality, and/or socioeconomic group. So, what is the common denominator for exploitation? It is a person's risk of vulnerability. Additionally, there are minimal legal consequences for traffickers – 19,000 prosecutions globally with only 7,000 convictions,<sup>3</sup> and profits are high because a human “product” can be sold repeatedly with minimal overhead. Human trafficking is a crime that involves the exploitation of someone for the purpose of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.<sup>4</sup> It is an industry that thrives in the shadows of our global economy and profits from human suffering,<sup>5</sup> and is considered one of the most pressing human rights issues of our time.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup><https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/what-fuels-human-trafficking#:~:text=Trafficking%20is%20one%20of%20the,estimated%2027%20million%20people%20annually.>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.dhs.gov/human-trafficking-quick-facts>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/what-fuels-human-trafficking#:~:text=Trafficking%20is%20one%20of%20the,estimated%2027%20million%20people%20annually.>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/what-fuels-human-trafficking#:~:text=Trafficking%20is%20one%20of%20the,estimated%2027%20million%20people%20annually.>

<sup>5</sup><https://ourrescue.org/education/statistics/economics-of-human-trafficking>

<sup>6</sup><https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5952cff2cd0f6834a8f6ead8/t/67251ef1acd40d4bf3ba9344/1730486002569/2023+NDHTTF+Annual+Human+Trafficking+Report.pdf>



## Three Major Contributing Factors of Human Trafficking from UNICEF USA<sup>7</sup>

### Stats in ND...

The North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force (NDHTTF) reported serving 20 new suspected or confirmed victims of human trafficking and 78 existing clients in the April-June 2024 quarter.<sup>8</sup> Of the 78 client-victims served, 60 were identified as being sex trafficked, 4 were labor trafficked, and 14 were both sex and labor trafficked. Since its inception in 2015 (using data through June 2021), the NDHTTF has served 760 victims of human trafficking (70% adults and 30% minors) and investigated 283 cases of human trafficking. The 2023 NDHTTF Annual Human Trafficking Report indicated that there were 325 victims served in 2023 alone (131 were new victims that included 102 sex trafficking victims and 19 labor trafficking victims) and 36 new investigations (24 were sex trafficking only, 8 were labor trafficking only, and 4 were both) with only two trafficker arrests made. What is more, the demographics of these findings show that human trafficking victims in North Dakota are predominantly female, Indigenous, and under the age of eighteen years old.<sup>9</sup>



*Home on the Range was one of 24 community tables where attendees could connect, collaborate, and learn about local community initiatives.*

### Help bring this hidden crime out of the shadows!

One repeated phrase throughout the BHTS was the “3P” paradigm which serves as a framework used around the world – where each “P” represents a fundamental action step to combat human trafficking: prosecution, prevention, and protection. Some advocates and policy makers including Labor Trafficking Specialist and Legal Services of North Dakota Team Member Rwatie Matsika would include a fourth “P”: participation/partnership to enlist all segments of society in the fight against modern slavery.<sup>10</sup> This participation includes you!

## RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS<sup>11</sup>

### IDENTIFYING HUMAN TRAFFICKING – ASK YOURSELF:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim in possession of their own identification and travel documents?</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim coached on what to say to community members, workers, law enforcement or immigration officials? Does someone else communicate for the victim?</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim recruited for one purpose but forced to engage in other work?</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Are the victim's wages being unlawfully garnished to pay off a debt or fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim forced to perform commercial sex acts?</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Has the victim or their family been threatened with harm if they attempt to leave?</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Has the victim been threatened with deportation or criminal charges?</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Has the victim been harmed, deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim free to contact friends or family without being coached or monitored?</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim under the age of 18 and engaged in commercial sex?</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim living in substandard housing?</li></ul> |
|---|--|

<sup>7</sup><https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/what-fuels-human-trafficking#:~:text=Trafficking%20is%20one%20of%20the,estimated%2027%20million%20people%20annually>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.ndhttf.org>

<sup>9</sup><https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5952cff2cd0f6834a8f6ead8t/67251ef1acd40d4bf3ba9344/1730486002569/2023+NDHTTF+Annual+Human+Trafficking+Report.pdf>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.state.gov/3ps-prosecution-protection-and-prevention/#:~:text=The%20%203P%20paradigm—prosecution,world%20to%20combat%20human%20trafficking>. See also Rwatie Matsika's presentation entitled “Native Americans and Human Trafficking in Urban and Tribal Lands: Addressing the Hidden Crisis with Legal Services of ND” on 5.20.25 at the Bakken Human Trafficking Summit at St. Mary's Central High School in Bismarck, ND.

<sup>11</sup>[https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/25\\_0605\\_bc\\_indicator-card-english-v03-release-508.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/25_0605_bc_indicator-card-english-v03-release-508.pdf)


*Continued on page 12*

## REPORT<sup>12</sup>



**To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement:**

**[1-866-347-2423](tel:1-866-347-2423)**



**To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline:**

**[1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888)**

or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)

## LEARN

- Attend the 2026 Bakken Human Trafficking Summit (May 19-20, 2026)
- Invite a 31:8 Project speaker to your Formation Hour<sup>13</sup>
- Complete the Polaris Project's online Human Trafficking Training<sup>14</sup>

## ADVOCATE

- Review the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000<sup>15</sup>
- Review The Episcopal Church's Resolutions specific to Human Trafficking education, advocacy, and prevention (2000-A057, 2003-D034, 2003-A025, 2009-A167, 2012-D042, 2015-D033, 2018-D009, 2018-C032, 2018-A178, 2022-B006)<sup>16</sup>
- Review Savanna's Act (2020)<sup>17</sup>
- Add Feather Alerts to your phone starting August 1, 2025<sup>18</sup>



<sup>12</sup><https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/publication/indicator-card>

<sup>13</sup><https://www.318project.org/contact.html>

<sup>14</sup><https://polarisproject.org/training/>

<sup>15</sup><https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/key-legislation>

<sup>16</sup>[https://episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts\\_search.pl](https://episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_search.pl)

<sup>17</sup><https://www.justice.gov/tribal/mmip/SavannasAct>

<sup>18</sup><https://northdakotamonitor.com/2025/06/05/north-dakota-adding-alerts-for-missing-native-endangered-people/>



# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

Exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion

Anyone under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act

Sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude

A highly profitable crime

Exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders or any type of transportation

## THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### SEX TRAFFICKING

Victims are manipulated or forced against their will to engage in sex acts for money.



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HAPPENING IN THE UNITED STATES



SUBURBS



RURAL TOWNS



CITIES

### FORCED LABOR

Victims are made to work for little or no pay. Very often, they are forced to manufacture or grow products that we use and consume every day.



### DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Victims are hidden in plain sight, forced to work in homes across the United States as nannies, maids, or domestic help.



## IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

NO MATTER AGE, RACE, SEX, ETHNICITY, NATIONALITY, IMMIGRATION STATUS, AND SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS



VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING MIGHT BE AFRAID TO COME FORWARD, OR WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS, EVEN IF IT IS HAPPENING RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

## RECOGNIZE AND REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- To report suspected trafficking to federal law enforcement, call 1-866-347-2423 or submit a tip online at [www.ice.gov/tips](http://www.ice.gov/tips).
- Get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to 233733 (BEFREE).
- Call 911 or local law enforcement if someone is in immediate danger.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Visit the Blue Campaign website to learn more about the **Indicators** of human trafficking: [DHS.gov/BlueCampaign](http://DHS.gov/BlueCampaign).
- Use Blue Campaign **materials** to raise awareness of human trafficking in your community.
- Follow @DHSBlueCampaign on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **X**.

# WoDakota: Beloved Community



*\*WoDakota logo created by  
Gerald Cournoyer Sr.*

## 2025 ANNUAL APPEAL

**supporting ministries of and within the Diocese of North Dakota**

**WoDakota** means being in harmony and balance with yourself and the world around you. Jesus calls us to do all we can toward becoming that **Beloved Community**.

The Diocesan Council has announced that the goal of the 2025 Annual Appeal will support these important ministries:



**Food Banks in every town/county  
where there is an Episcopal Church  
&**

**The Sudanese Ministry at St. John the Divine in Moorhead**



**Bishop Brian says:** *"The season of Pentecost reminds us of our responsibility to share the Love of Jesus Christ in ways that it can be easily seen or heard."*

*Please join me in making a gift to the WoDakota Annual Appeal which will feed our neighbors physically and spiritually."*



To make a donation, please click on the "Donate" button at <https://ndepiscopal.org> -or- use this QR code

During the Annual Appeals of 2023 and 2024, The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota received **71** different donations. If you are interested in joining this number, please donate online, send a check, or contact the Diocesan Office for more information!

### Food Banks in Episcopal Neighborhoods

- The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry (*Minot*)
- Hope Center (*Devils Lake*)
- Great Plains Food Bank (*Fargo, Moorhead & Bismarck*)
- Great Plains Mobile Food Pantry (*Selfridge, Cartwright, White Shield & Walhalla*)
- Community Action Partnership (*Jamestown*)
- HC Community Care Center & Food Pantry (*Grand Forks*)
- Standing Rock Food Distribution Program (*Fort Yates & Cannon Ball*)
- AMEN Food Pantry (*Dickinson*)
- Williston Food Pantry (*Williston*)
- Heart of the Turtle Mountain Food Pantry (*Dunseith*)
- Spirit Lake Food Distribution (*Fort Totten*)



# Diocesan Convention 2025

## *Anchored in Christ's Love: One Body, One Mission*

**Dates:** October 24 & 25, 2025

**Location:** Prairie Knights Resort & Casino, Fort Yates

The Convention Planning Team is hard at work to bring you a great convention in the fall. Please note, this convention is of utmost importance (as they all are) because we will be electing our 12th Bishop Diocesan. Please keep the Convention Planning Team in your thoughts and prayers throughout the next several months.

George Abdilnour - St. Peter's, Williston  
Tyrrell DeCoteau - St. Sylvan's, Dunseith  
Lindsey Dwarf - St. Luke's, Fort Yates  
Harvey Henderson - St. Paul's, Grand Forks  
Sandy Holbrook - St. Stephen's, Fargo  
Ashley Hubbard - dMST

Jessica Krzewina - dMST  
Joanne Lassiter - St. George's, Bismarck  
Beth Lipp - St. George's, Bismarck  
Donna Pettit - St. Paul's, Grand Forks  
Vanessa Strobel - Gethsemane, Fargo  
Brian Thom - dMST

**Registration forms** will be available soon, as will the Diocesan Convention website. Keep an eye out in the bi-weekly *Prairies*\* for updated information.

**Delegate lists** should be turned into the Diocesan Office. If you know that you are a delegate and will need a room at Prairie Knights, please call and book your room. Mention "Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota Convention" when you call to book your room. Phone: 701.854.7777

**Resolution Deadlines** are sixty days prior to Convention. Please note, all resolutions need to be into the Diocesan Office by Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

**\*Not subscribed to the Prairie?** Email Jess in the Diocesan Office ([office@ndepiscopal.org](mailto:office@ndepiscopal.org)) and she will add you to the distribution list. This is the easiest and fastest way to stay up-to-date with news throughout the Diocese.

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## Bishop Search for 12th Bishop Diocesan



William D. Walker  
(1883–1896)



Samuel Cook Edsall  
(1899–1901)



Cameron Mann  
(1902–1913)



John Poyntz Tyler  
(1914–1931)



Frederick B. Bartlett  
(1931–1935)



Douglas H. Atwill  
(1937–1951)



Richard R. Emery  
(1951–1964)



George T. Masuda  
(1965–1979)



Harold A. Hopkins, Jr.  
(1980–1988)



Andrew H. Fairfield  
(1989–2003)



Michael G. Smith  
(2004–2019)



(2026– )

**Process Status Report:** The search team is in the middle of the interview process and has discerned who to invite to a discernment retreat in July. Please continue to pray for both the candidates and search team as they discern God's plan for moving forward.

**\*Not pictured:** Assisting Bishop Keith Whitmore (2019–2021); Bishop Provisional Thomas Ely (2021–2024); and Bishop Provisional Brian Thom (2024–Present)



# *Episcopal Diocese of* **North Dakota**

*Deus Incrementum Dat | God Gives the Growth (1 Cor. 3.6)*

By the Grace of God  
The Right Reverend Brian Thom  
Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of North Dakota

will ordain

*Peter Akecmeir*

to the Sacred Order of Priests  
in Christ's One Holy Catholic and  
Apostolic Church

Sunday, June 22, 2025  
4:00 p.m.

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church  
120 8th Street South,  
Moorhead, MN 56560

Your presence and prayers are requested

Reception to follow  
Clergy: Red Stoles





# ND Cycle of Prayer



**Sunday, June 22, 2025:** The Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola  
St. Stephen's, Fargo: Jamie Parsley, Rector; John Anderson and Suzanne MacEwen, Deacons;  
Laura Nylander, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Council.

**Sunday, June 29, 2025:** The Church of the Province of Myanmar [Burma]  
St. Thomas, Fort Totten; Ila McKay, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Safe Church Team.

**Sunday, July 6, 2025:** The Church of Nigeria  
St. Luke's, Fort Yates: John Floberg, Rector; Lindsey Dwarf, Priest; Sloane Floberg, Angela Goodhouse, Deacons;  
Carmine Goodhouse, Sr. Warden; and for the Commission on Ministry: The Rev. Harvey Henderson, chair.

**Sunday, July 13, 2025:** The Church of North India  
Bread of Life Preaching Station at the ND State Penitentiary: The Rev. Canon Zanne Ness, Priest-in-Charge; and  
for the North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries: Tyrrell DeCoteau, chair.

**Sunday, July 20, 2025:** The Church of Pakistan  
St. Paul's, Grand Forks: Harvey Henderson, Priest, Don Leroux, Deacon, Susan Owens, Senior Warden; and for  
the Worship Leaders and Lay Readers of the Diocese.

**Sunday, July 27, 2025:** The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea  
Grace Church, Jamestown: Robert Hoekstra, Rector; Tish Johnson, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan  
Chancellor: Leo Wilking.

**Sunday, August 3, 2025:** The Episcopal Church in the Philippines  
All Saints, Minot; Kathy Hintz, Senior Warden; and for the Catechists and Church School Teachers of the Diocese.

**Sunday, August 10, 2025:** The Anglican Church of Rwanda  
St. John the Divine, Moorhead: Barbara Olson & Hellen Lodu, Deacons; Charles Cherry, supply priest; Oliver  
Mogga, Senior Warden; and for the Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors of the Diocese.

**Sunday, August 17, 2025:** The Scottish Episcopal Church  
Church of the Cross, Selfridge: John Floberg, Rector; Sloane Floberg, Deacon; Sylvia Culbertson, Senior Warden;  
and for Episcopal Relief and Development.

**Sunday, August 24, 2025:** The Church of the Province of South East Asia  
St. Peter's, Walhalla: Elsie Magnus, Deacon; Ross Blair, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Safe Church Team.

**Sunday, August 31, 2025:** The Church of South India  
St. Paul's, White Shield: Wes Fox, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Finance Committee.

**Sunday, September 7, 2025:** The Anglican Church of Southern Africa  
St. Peter's, Williston; George Abdilnour, Senior Warden; and for the work and ministry of the Mothers' Union and  
the Daughters of the King.

**Sunday, September 14, 2025:** The Anglican Church of South America  
St. Gabriel's Camp, Solen: John Floberg, Priest; and for the work of the Diocesan Reconciliation and Creation  
Care Committee.

*The quarterly Cycle of Prayer can be found on our website at: [www.ndepiscopal.org/cycle-of-prayer](http://www.ndepiscopal.org/cycle-of-prayer)*

# Sunday Collects

## June 22, 2025: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 29, 2025: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## July 6, 2025: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## July 13, 2025: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## July 20, 2025: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## July 27, 2025: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## August 3, 2025: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## August 10, 2025: 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## August 17, 2025: 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## August 24, 2025: 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## August 31, 2025: 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

## September 7, 2025: 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## September 14, 2025: 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



# Calendar

*\*All noted times are Central Time*

## Bishop Thom's Schedule

### June 2025

- 18th-23rd: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 22nd: Bishop's Visitation at St. Stephen's, Fargo
- 22nd: Peter's Akicmeir's Ordination to the Priesthood (St. John the Divine, Mhd); 4pm

### July 2025

- 16th-21st: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 20th: Bishop's Visitation at St. James, Cannon Ball and St. Luke's, Fort Yates

### August 2025

- 5th-12th: Bishop Thom on vacation
- 20th-25th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 24th: Bishop's Visitation at St. Sylvan's, Dunseith

## Diocesan Events and Dates to Note

### June 2025

- 17th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 17th: Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 17th: Creation Care and Reconciliation Committee Meeting (Zoom); 7pm
- 20th-21st: Diocesan Council (In-Person); Jamestown
- 22nd: Bishop's Visitation: St. Stephen's, Fargo
- 22nd: Peter's Akicmeir's Ordination to the Priesthood (St. John the Divine, Mhd); 4pm
- 24th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 26th: Diocesan Convention Planning Committee Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm

### July 2025

- 1st: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 1st: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 1st: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 4th: *Diocesan Office Closed (Independence Day)*
- 8th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 15th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 20nd: Bishop's Visitation: St. James, Cannon Ball & St. Luke's, Fort Yates
- 22nd: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 29th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm

### August 2025

- 5th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 5th: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 5th: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 12th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 19th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 22nd-23rd: Diocesan Council (In-Person); Minot
- 22nd: Bishop's Visitation: St. Sylvan's, Dunseith
- 26th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm



***The Sheaf***

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[www.ndepiscopal.org/the-sheaf](http://www.ndepiscopal.org/the-sheaf)

