



THE SHEAF



Anchored in Christ's Love



One Body, One Mission

Deus Incrementum Dat | God Gives the Growth
I Corinthians 3.6



A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
Pre-Convention Edition ~ September 2025



An Invitation to Diocesan Convention

The Rt. Rev. Brian Thom

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

As people of the Episcopal denomination, we seem to have a way of making statements that are both present tense and future intention: the theme for our 55th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Dakota captures both dynamics perfectly.

Anchored in Christ's Love – A testimony to how we've lived, how we've held onto our faith with the strength of steel? Or an acknowledgement of our frail humanity which needs Christ's secure tether to keep us from drifting away?

One Body, One Mission – An assertion that we claim the power of a unified community, with a focused ministry? Or is this an aspirational prayer that we will someday lay aside parochial particulars and unite behind a common understanding of Jesus' call to serve the least, the last, and the lost?

Our Anglican answer? **Yes!**

Wherever you may find yourselves individually on the balance of certainty or hope, please know that these three things are true today:

With the pending election of its 12th bishop, this diocese is proclaiming its confidence in the future of Episcopal ministry in the vineyard that is North Dakota.

By inviting a person to fulfill this unique role of leadership, this diocese is clear that they do not want someone to wave them on from around the next corner, nor to push them from behind, to cross some predetermined goal line.

The saints of this diocese are seeking a spiritual and sacramental companion who will remind them of the solid anchor of Christ's redeeming love and of the beckoning call to come together to do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with their God.

As you receive this edition of *The Sheaf*, there will be only a few weeks left before your parish delegates join others from across the Diocese to discern the Holy Spirit's will for the future mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota. I bid your unceasing prayers over these days for those who will elect and for those who are offering themselves for this discernment. Within the embrace of a Holy Eucharist, the ballots will be cast on October 25th. May the Spirit bless the Convention with clarity!

+Brian

The Rt. Rev. Brian Thom, Bishop Provisional
Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
Office 701.235.6688 Cell 208.731.2782
bishopthom@ndepiscopal.org



The Diocese of North Dakota resides upon the traditional tribal homelands of the Arikara, Dakota, Hidatsa, Lakota, Mandan, Nakota, and Turtle Mountain Chippewa peoples.

55th Diocesan Convention

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

October 24-25, 2025

Prairie Knights Casino & Resort | Fort Yates, ND

Convention Website: www.ndepiscopal.org/2025diocesanconvention

The next several pages contain helpful items and information that will prepare you for the upcoming Diocesan Convention. Please hang on to this information, as well as watch bi-weekly emails of *The Prairie*. As we draw nearer to October 24th and 25th, we will send out current up-to-date information to delegates. Finally, and most importantly, continue to hold the diocese in your prayers, along with the bishop candidates, as we near this momentous occasion, electing our 12th Bishop Diocesan.

As always, if there are any questions regarding the Diocesan Convention, or anything within this edition of *The Sheaf*, please reach out to:

Jessica Krzewina, Diocesan Administrator & Chair of the Diocesan Convention
office@ndepiscopal.org | 701.235.6688

Bp. Brian Thom, Bishop Provisional
bishopthom@ndepiscopal.org | 208.731.2782



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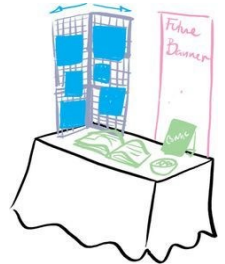
Housekeeping Information

Registration forms are available and have been emailed out to delegates and clergy. They are also available on our website, should your email have been missed. If you have not received a registration form, please contact Jessica in the Diocesan Office.



Hotel Rooms should be secured sooner rather than later. Please call Prairie Knights and book your room. Mention "Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota Convention" when you call to book your room. Phone: 701.854.7777

Display & Selling Tables will be around the Convention space. We look forward to as many tables as there are people interested in sharing their ministries. We ask that tables be ministries or interests appropriate to the Episcopal Church. These display tables could also be a chance to showcase a special ministry or program at your church, sell items to help fund ministries, or a place to give away items your church/ministry is no longer using. Once you get an idea for your display table, please email Jessica in the Diocesan Office for next steps.



The Diocesan Budget will be available soon on our website. The Finance Committee has sent a 2026 proposed and 2027 projected budget on to the Diocesan Council. Diocesan Council will meet on September 22, 2025 to review and finalize the budget that will be presented at Convention. Once approved, we will send the budget on to all lay delegates and clergy, at least 30-days prior to convention. At this time, we will also upload a copy to the Diocesan website, along with a Budget Book, detailing specific line items of the budget.

A special thanks to the **Convention Planning Committee** for their dedication and hard work throughout the year planning this year's Diocesan Convention. The Committee has met faithfully since April, and some of the busiest weeks are coming up as we get ready to host Convention in October. Please keep the Committee in your prayers as October approaches.

Jessica Krzewina - dMST, Committee Chair
George Abdilnour - St. Peter's, Williston
Tyrrell DeCoteau - St. Sylvan's, Dunseith
Harvey Henderson - St. Paul's, Grand Forks
Sandy Holbrook - St. Stephen's, Fargo
Ashley Hubbard - dMST, Diocesan Missioner

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, Bishop Provisional



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Bishop Election: Candidates



The Rev. Lecia Diaz Brannon

website: www.ndepiscopal.org/the-rev-lecia-diaz-brannon/

Lecia was ordained to the diaconate in June 2016 and to the priesthood in December of 2016. She remained in Texas for a curacy with Calvary Episcopal Church in Richmond and went on to serve there as Associate Rector and Locum Tenens. In 2020, she was called to Rector at St. Mary's in Cypress, TX. The opportunity to return to Seminary of the Southwest came in November of 2022 to present. Lecia's ministry continues in relationship and connection with alumni and the seminary.



The Very Rev. Shay Craig

website: www.ndepiscopal.org/the-very-rev-shay-craig/

Shay has a passion for rural ministry and discerning the Spirit at work in small congregations in remote locations and with limited resources. She has worked with churches across her Diocese and Province on creating community, redefining vitality and sustainable leadership. She is truly called to serve God's people in God's country and could not be happy anywhere else.



The Rev. Dr. Brandt Montgomery

website: www.ndepiscopal.org/the-rev-dr-brandt-montgomery/

The Rev. Dr. Brandt Montgomery serves as the chaplain of Saint James School in Hagerstown, Maryland, having arrived there in August 2019, and as the vicar of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Boonsboro, Maryland since May 2023. Born and raised up in the Methodist tradition, Brandt has lived his Christian life within the Episcopal Church for two-plus decades. He has offered ministry to God's people as both a parish priest and Church school chaplain for thirteen years.



The Very Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Th.D.

website: www.ndepiscopal.org/the-very-rev-benjamin-thomas

The Very Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Th.D. has served in rural dioceses for most of his ordained ministry. After his ordination in 2007, he was an Associate Rector at Grace Church (NYC) before moving to Salina, KS where he served as Dean (2010-2016). Since 2016, Fr. Thomas has been bi-vocational, working as an executive in non-profit organizations alongside his ministry within the church, first as the Director of Church Relations and Social Justice Programs at St. Francis Ministries (2016-2020) and later as the Executive Director for Rakhma Homes (2021-2023).

What's Next, Before the Election

On August 4th the Nominating Committee completed 8-months of work to pray, discern, and invite four highly talented and dedicated people to be candidates for the new Diocesan Bishop of ND. The amount of work this committee did to work through a complicated and time-consuming job is to be commended. With the announcement of the candidates for Bishop, a new committee was formed to help the diocese and the candidates through the time until the Electing Convention on Saturday, October 25th. The **Transition Committee** is composed of 11 members: the six members of the Standing Committee and five additional members of the Diocese.

Jason Thoms, St. George's, Bismarck, President	Joanne Lassiter, St. George's, Bismarck
Dn. Elsie Magnus, St. Peter's, Walhalla	Alison Hiatt, St. George's, Bismarck
John Baird, St. Stephen's, Fargo	Don Henderson, St. Paul's, Grand Forks
Dn. Beth Lipp, St. George's, Bismarck	Dn. Angela Goodhouse, St. Luke's, Fort Yates
The Rev. Jamie Parsley, St. Stephen's, Fargo	The Rev. Mary Johnson, Retired Priest
Tyrrell DeCoteau, St. Sylvan's, Dunseith	



The role of the Transition Committee is to help the Diocese **meet the candidates** for Bishop, **understand the election process**, and **educate the diocese** on the importance of listening to God's voice when voting.

The Bishop Meet & Greet events took place the first week of September. There were formal question and answer sessions, which are posted on our website (two videos and one audio file). We encourage you to listen to these and get to know the candidates. Listen, watch, pray, and discern who God is putting on your heart to vote for during this election process.

One of the most important issues during the next six weeks until the election is that there should be no campaigning by anyone for any of the candidates for Bishop. For our diocese to elect the candidate God has chosen, each person needs to personally research, reflect, pray, and discern for themselves who they believe will be the best Bishop.

The Transition Committee unanimously stands by the no campaigning policy and asks that all clergy, delegates, and members abide by this request. We encourage congregations to set aside a time so that all of the people of each congregation can have a discussion about the candidates so that their delegates to the Electing Convention know the thoughts of the members of their congregation.

The Transition Committee will be in touch with **all congregations** over the coming weeks to see if we can assist you in a congregational meeting or an informational webinar so that everyone understands our election process and has their questions answered.

Please remember to pray continuously for our election process: O God, creator of the world and sustainer of our lives. We thank you for bringing together the members of the Diocese of North Dakota, a diverse and faithful people. Help us to listen to your Spirit as we discern our choice for a bishop that will live with us, work beside us, and know and understand us as we grow together to serve your people. Amen.

Jason Thoms
President of the Standing Committee

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Message from Bp. Brian Regarding Change in Business Time

To the Delegates to the 2025 Diocesan Convention, Clergy, and Diocesan Council Members,

The Convention Planning Committee invites you to note some important changes to the **schedule**, **content**, and **canonical requirements** of this year's convention:

All Diocesan Business on Friday Afternoon

Due to the happy task of saving our Saturday meeting time for the election of the 12th Bishop of North Dakota, all of the Diocese's convention business must be accomplished on Friday, October 24th.



Therefore, the Convention **will convene at 2PM** in the Pavilion Ballroom of the Prairie Knights Casino that Friday afternoon. Further, because we must have time to elect new diocesan leaders and approve a budget for 2026, we will not hold workshops as has been done in past conventions. *Please share this information widely! Not all delegate lists have been turned in yet, nor does the Diocesan office have contact information for every delegate. Please share as you are able!*

Larger Quorum Needed for Election of a Bishop

Because we are holding an election for a bishop, our canons require that **two-thirds of the Members of the Clergy entitled to vote and two-thirds of the Lay delegates representing two-thirds of the Congregations entitled to representation at the Convention shall constitute a quorum for the election of a Bishop.** (Canon III, Sec. 5)



Therefore, accurate delegate lists are imperative, as is the attendance of every parish delegate and eligible clergyperson. Registration materials have been released. Senior Wardens and parish clergy should assist their delegates in registration.

With my thanks for your support of an exciting and successful convention,

+Brian

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Congregational Participation

Lord's Prayer Videos

To express our diversity, we would like someone (or multiple **someones**) from each congregation to **record the Lord's Prayer**.

We are looking for a **broad representation** from the diocese – a prayer from young people, from elders, from folks of varying genders, cultures, traditional and contemporary languages, and in different languages. **Our hope is to receive video footage (at least one) from all 18 of our congregations.**



Please use a cell phone and record a video reciting the Lord's Prayer. When you send in the video, please let us know who is in the video, their parish, and if speaking in a different language, please identify the language.

At convention we will play these recordings at various times of worship, at mealtimes, and during the waiting time after ballots are cast on Saturday.

You can send them in by:

- Texting them to the Diocesan cell phone: **701.235.6688**
- Emailing them to me: **fatherharvey@stpaulsgrandforks.org**



We need to have them by the end of September, at the latest, so the tech folks can prepare them for the convention.

folks can prepare

Thanks in advance, Father Harvey Henderson+

Pictures

Throughout Convention, there will be times when we would like to display congregational pictures. Please send in pictures of your worship spaces, building, and people that help identify you as a part of the Diocese of North Dakota. For instance, your baptismal font, your altars, your community gatherings, the LGBTQ+ events you host, stained glass windows, quilts... anything that is unique and identifying to your community and place of worship, would be welcome! Please email or text pictures to Jessica in the Diocesan Office:

701.235.6688 | office@ndepiscopal.org



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Convention Schedule

Friday, October 24th

- 11:00am Registration Opens
- 11:30am North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries Meeting
- 2:00pm Opening Plenary
Start of Diocesan Convention Business
- 5:30pm Social Hour
- 5:30pm Friends of Bill meeting
- 6:30pm Dinner
- 7:30pm Dakota Pro Musica Event

Saturday, October 25th

- 7:30am Breakfast & Final Registration
- 9:00am Opening Worship Liturgy of the Word
- 9:50am Explanation of Bishop Diocesan Election
- 10:00am Election Begins



Following the Election, we will close with Eucharist

Dakota Pro Musica presents

Sacred Place

A Concert exploring our relationship with Nature and Creation

Dakota Pro Musica
Dr. Jason Thoms, Artistic Director

Friday, October 24, 2025 at 7:30 pm
Annual Convention of the North Dakota Episcopal Church
Prairie Knight Casino, Fort Yates, ND

Concert Sponsors

trinitylutheran

Season Patrons
Hollis and Jacki Thoms

Season Benefactors

Season Sponsors

Anna Rathbun

LEACH FOUNDATION
Impacting people and places

DAC
Dakota Arts Council

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Life. Power. Energy.

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A Sustainable Energy Company

Gate City Bank
For a Better Way of Life.

MDU Resources
Foundation

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Nominations ~ Open Positions

There is a nomination form available on the website.

Pages 11-12 have biographical information for nominees received by September 8, 2025.

Know of someone who is passionate about the Diocese and would do well in a position of leadership? Nominate them for one of the many open positions throughout the Diocese. You yourself want to run? You may turn in your own nomination form. Questions about what it means to be a part of Diocesan Council or Standing Committee? Reach out to Bishop Brian Thom for more information.

Nominations to be included in the Convention packets will be accepted until Wednesday, October 8, 2025. After that date, as in the past, nominations "from the floor" for candidates for elective offices will be in order at the Convention. Nominations from the floor will require all information from the nomination form to be distributed to all delegates by the nominee/nominator.

Thank You

A special thank you to **Dn. John Anderson, St. Stephen's, Fargo** and **Donna Pettit, St. Paul's, Grand Forks**, for serving two three-year commitments on Diocesan Council, both elected from the East Region. We are grateful for your dedication to leading the Diocese in North Dakota. As you see John and Donna at Convention this year, please give them an extra thank you for their time and leadership.

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servants John and Donna who have enriched this community and brought gladness to friends; now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Guide them in the continued use of your gifts. Give them sustenance for temporal and spiritual needs, friends to cheer their way, and a clear vision of the ministry to which you are now calling them. By your Holy Spirit be present in their pilgrimage, that they may travel with the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Book of Occasional Services, Pgs. 281-282]

Secretary of Convention

Elect: 1 person, 1 year term, repeatable

This person is responsible for the recording of the proceedings of the Convention and their publication, and for certain official correspondences and certifications throughout the year. The diocesan Ministry Support Team provides assistance.

Treasurer of the Diocese

Elect: 1 person, 1 year term, repeatable

This person is responsible for oversight of receipt and disbursement of all diocesan funds and for reporting the same in accordance with church and state laws. The Treasurer should have general knowledge of accounting procedures, and a close and supportive relationship to the Diocese and the local church. The position carries seat, voice, and vote in Convention and on the Diocesan Council. The Treasurer is usually, though not necessarily, the Chair of the Finance Committee. The Diocesan Administrator handles the day-to-day bookkeeping, payment of accounts, etc.

Standing Committee/Diocesan Council

Standing Committee: Elect 1 clergy, 2-year term

Standing Committee: Elect 1 clergy, 3-year term

Standing Committee: Elect 1 lay person, 3-year term

East Region to Diocesan Council: Elect multiple positions

West Region to Diocesan Council: Elect multiple positions

The Standing Committee meets concurrently with Diocesan Council (4-5 times per year) or on call by the President, or the Bishop. Its concerns are final approval, with the Bishop, of persons in process toward ordination, with legal matters, especially the sale or encumbrance of diocesan properties, and various canonical responsibilities at the wider church level (e.g., consents to the election and consecration of bishops). The Standing Committee also serves as a Council of Advice to the Bishop, and when the diocese is without a bishop and under certain other situations of the Bishop's absence or incapacity, the Standing Committee becomes the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. The President and Secretary of the Standing Committee are elected annually from among its membership. Members of this Committee are also members of the Diocesan Council.

The Diocesan Council is similar to the Vestry or Bishop's Committee of a local congregation. It serves to carry out the program, policy, and budget of the Diocese between meetings of the Convention. Currently, 4-5 meetings are held in person (Friday evening to Saturday afternoon) and additional meetings may be held on Zoom if needed. Members need to have good internet access and the capacity to attend all in-person meetings, including required travel (at diocesan expense) and Zoom meetings. This is an important leadership, policy setting, planning, and administrative group, which, with the Bishop, make many decisions about the on-going life of the Diocese. Persons serving on Council should have a good understanding of the Church at the local level and a strong personal commitment to Christ.

General Convention Deputies

Elect four clergy and four lay deputies (Alternates will be elected in 2026)

Elected Deputies will represent the Diocese of North Dakota at the 82nd General Convention of The Episcopal Church, currently scheduled to be held in July 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona. General Convention Deputies must be able to travel and participate in a rigorous, 6-day business agenda there, as well as commit considerable time before the convention reading and preparing individually and in deputation Zoom meetings.



NOMINATIONS

(Received as of September 8, 2025)

Secretary of Convention

Elect 1 ~ one-year term; repeatable

Nominee: Amy Phillips, St. Stephen's, Fargo

Experience: I have had numerous experiences serving in secretarial positions that required taking minutes, organizing/maintaining documents, communicating via various systems, etc. These experiences occurred in academia, non-profit community organizations, social justice groups, and churches (including the NDED Diocesan Council and Standing Committee).

Why do you wish to serve and what gifts would you bring? I wish to serve in this ministry because I was asked to submit my nomination for the position by someone I respect and who has seen my secretarial skills in actions. Some of the gifts I would bring to the position include being detail-oriented, efficient, a good editor, and a seasoned writer (plus I like to get tasks done quickly).

Continued on page 12

Standing Committee

Elect 1 Clergy ~ two-year term

Elect 1 Clergy ~ three-year term

Elect 1 Lay ~ three-year term

Nominee: The Rev. Dn. Elsie Magnus, St. Peter's, Walhalla

Experience: I have previously served on Commission of Ministry, Diocesan Council, Chairperson of Episcopal Foundation for Ministry in Higher Education, and have filled a two-year vacancy on Standing Committee. I am the deacon for St. Peter's Walhalla, and full-time pulpit supply for Cavalier Presbyterian. In my secular life I have been a Cavalier County Commissioner and served on many boards related to the Commission. I am the chairperson of Langdon Prairie Health Foundation, serve on Job Development Authority, and Northern Lights Art Council. I have recently left the Pembina Gorge Foundation Executive board after completing the third of three terms.

Why do you wish to serve and what gifts would you bring? I am called to service in my church, in my community, and in my home. My profession was a place of teaching children and young adults not just to sing and play instruments, but to acknowledge the gift of music they received and give that gift in return by sharing it with others. I bring a sound inquiring mind to the table, experience and knowledge of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota, and prayerful consideration of the decisions placed before the Standing Committee.

Nominee: The Rev. Jamie Parsley, St. Stephen's, Fargo

Experience: I bring many years of experience with me, and with those years, much knowledge about how the Diocese runs. Over these 25 years, I have served in various capacities in the diocese: I have served on Diocesan Council, Chair of the Commission on Ministry, I was the Bishop's Executive Assistant and I was editor of *The Sheaf* for over 10 years; most recently I served on the Bishop's Nominating Committee and the Transition Committee for the Bishop's Candidates. I am just completing a term on the Standing Committee completing John Floberg's term.

Why do you wish to serve and what gifts would you bring? Serving on the Standing Committee during this time I think is important. We need people who have the experience and the history to serve on Standing Committee as we make the transition to a new, full-time bishop. I think I can provide the experience to serve on Standing Committee during this time.

Treasurer of the Diocese

Elect 1 ~ one-year term; repeatable

Nominee: The Rev. John Floberg, Standing Rock

**Also running for General Convention Deputy*

Experience: As a priest of the diocese I have served multiple terms on Council/Standing Committee and as a General Convention Deputy. I know this diocese well. I know many of the leaders in this diocese.

Why do you wish to serve and what gifts would you bring? I have a gift of connecting financial and other resources to the mission of the Church through its various ministries. I wish to serve because I want to be a good steward of the life, mission, and ministry of the Diocese of North Dakota.

St. Gabriel's Camping Ministry

The Rev. John Floberg, Standing Rock

St. Gabriel's Camping Ministry provided four opportunities this summer for middle school through senior high youth. The combined number of youth in camp during the four sessions were over eighty-five in the equivalent of 15 camping days. When we multiply those days and numbers of youth by 16 hours in a day of camp the sum is 20,400 hours of contact with these teens. Multiply that by the adults involved and the numbers become even more staggering with over 100,000 hours of ministry with and among youth this summer. Youth came from McLaughlin, SD, Ft. Yates, Cannon Ball, Porcupine, Mandan, Bismarck and from Paoli, PA.



SAINT GABRIEL'S
Camp

This is just one way of measuring impact of St. Gabriel's Camp. Another way is by looking at the local adult staff that is brought together to offer these opportunities for the youth.

Their names are listed here: Tyrin Gates (YoungLife Mission Staff), Josey Kelly (YoungLife Summer Mission Staff), Ethan Summers, Fr. Joe Hubbard, Isaiah Floberg (YoungLife Mission Staff), Fr. John



Continued on page 14



Activities filling these hours included hiking, Club talks, morning and evening prayer, swimming, fishing, boating, basketball, tubing, four square volleyball, campfires, cabin discussions and lots of meals shared together. This year a fourth aspect was added to St. Gabriel's Camping Ministry by sending a small group of five teens and leaders to join in a backpacking back country trip in the Gallitan National Forest through Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp, up the Boulder River from Big Timber, Montana.

A group of adults and teens joined us at St. Gabriel's during the July Camp. They came from Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli and St. Paul's in Chestnut Hills, Pennsylvania. This pressed St. Gabriel's nearly to its capacity with more than sixty people in Camp! In the three sessions at St. Gabriel's the theme and teaching focused on the **Fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

This fall, winter, and spring we have four weekend events being planned at St. Gabriel's for middle and high school youth. Dates for these will be published soon or further information can be provided by contacting Fr. John Floberg:

jffloberg@gmail.com



Standing Rock's Youth Ministry

The Rev. John Floberg, Standing Rock



Youth Ministry is always going to involve innovation and consistency. The thing that joins these ideas together is imagination. This past school year we determined to make further use of our resources and offer what we call YoungLife Extra. It is in addition to the weekly Club offered during the school year, overnights that are planned on a quarterly schedule, and camps that are offered several times during the summer. YoungLife Extra is offered at least once a month, and sometimes twice. It is reimagining church youth groups going to a movie, out bowling, a group going fishing and other socializing events. It gives an opportunity for teens to spend time together with adults and for some provides activities they might not otherwise have much of a chance to be doing.

Standing Rock's youth ministry was further enabled to offer all these activities through its YoungLife Budget that is raised beyond the Episcopal Church and its resources. A 15-passenger bus, with a handicap lift, was added to join the other vans for safe and reliable transportation.

This ongoing partnership between the congregations on Standing Rock and YoungLife provides an ability for consistent ministry. What has been proven time and again for this ministry is that resources follow consistency in ministry.



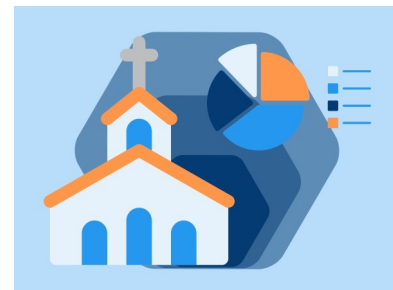
**2015 FORD PASSENGER/
WHEELCHAIR BUS - GREAT SHAP...**



Banking on Diocesan Finances

The Rev. John Floberg, Diocesan Treasurer

It has been only a short time since I was appointed by Bishop Thom, with approval of the Diocesan Council, to become the Treasurer of the Diocese. By the time I became the Treasurer, we were well into the time of budget preparation for 2026. This isn't a typical budgeting year. Last year's diocesan convention and the work of this year's diocesan council, have been making the way for the election of a full time Bishop Diocesan. That means adding to the number of full-time positions that are supported by the diocesan budget.



But it is more than that. As the Treasurer leading in this collaborative effort, I am reminding myself and others that budgets give space for many good things. A budget helps provide stability. In another way of stating, it is through our budget making process that we make sure we are not causing ourselves chaos.

With a new Bishop coming next March, our Finance Committee and Diocesan Council are working to prepare a budget that is pretty much looking forward for five years. The 2026 budget is being crafted to make use of consistent forms of revenue for five years that funds the expenditures being proposed in this budget. This is not to create a budget that doesn't allow for innovation with the coming of a new Bishop, but rather it provides that person and the Council to work creatively in developing their new relationship. That should provide for one part of a healthy and smooth transition that doesn't take place in a few months, but rather over the course of a few years.

2025 WoDakota Appeal Recipients

The Holy Spirit was once again at work during our Annual WoDakota Appeal!

We received 27 gifts totaling **\$16,723.91**.

The Diocesan Council announced the goal of the 2025 Annual Appeal was to support Food Banks & Pantries and the Sudanese Ministry at St. John the Divine, Moorhead.



**WoDakota logo created by
Gerald Cournoyer Sr.*

The Diocesan Office will be remitting checks to the following recipients:

St. John the Divine, Moorhead

Amount: \$8,361.91

Food Banks/Pantries

Amount per location: \$836.20

- The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry (*Minot*)
- Hope Center (*Devils Lake*)
- Great Plains Food Bank (*Fargo, Moorhead & Bismarck, Selfridge, Cartwright, White Shield, Walhalla*)

- Community Action Partnership (*Jamestown*)
- St. Joseph's Social Care (*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*)

Thank you to all who donated to this important appeal!

ND Cycle of Prayer



Sunday, September 21, 2025: The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
The diocesan Ministry Support Team: Bishop Brian Thom, Jessica Krzewina, and Ashley Hubbard; and for United Thank Offering: Vanessa Strobel and Mary Massad, co-coordinators.

Sunday, September 28, 2025: The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
Widowed Clergy Spouses: Alice Hauan, Patricia Sauer, Gary Towne, Sandy Bukhardt; and for the North Dakota Episcopal Foundation: Beth Lipp, president.

Sunday, October 5, 2025: The Anglican Church of Tanzania
Retired Clergy: Alan Broadhead, Charles Cherry, Bonniejean Christensen, Wes Fox, George Schulenberg, George Slanger, Cherian Mathew, Mike Horn, Bart Davis, Mary Johnson, Duffy Williams, Zanne Ness; and for the Commission on Ministry: the Rev Harvey Henderson, chair.

Sunday, October 12, 2025: The Church of the Province of Uganda
Clergy Serving Elsewhere or on Leave: Matthew Coomber, Mary Gokey, Alex Lodu-Kenyi, Gadi Edward, Sally Smythe, Erin Richards, Zechariah Reng, Brandon Mauai, Crystal Towers; and for the North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries: Tyrrell DeCoteau, chair.

Sunday, October 19, 2025: The Episcopal Church
St. George's, Bismarck: Hal Weidman, Rector; Beth Lipp, Ed Wos, Deacons; Zanne Ness, Canon; Jane White, Senior Warden; and for the Worship Leaders and Lay Readers of the Diocese.

Sunday, October 26, 2025: The Church in Wales
St. James, Cannon Ball: John Floberg, Rector; Sloane Floberg, Deacon; Elaine McLaughlin, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Chancellor: Leo Wilking.

Sunday, November 2, 2025: The Church of the Province of West Africa
St. Michael's, Cartwright: Doug Gullikson, Senior Warden; and for the Catechists and Church School Teachers of the Diocese.

Sunday, November 9, 2025: The Church in the Province of the West Indies
Church of the Advent, Devils Lake: Don Leroux, Deacon; Kristin Kenner, Senior Warden; and for the Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors of the Diocese.

Sunday, November 16, 2025: The Episcopal Province of Alexandria
St. John's, Dickinson: Mary Massad and Leslie Ross, congregational leadership; and for Episcopal Relief and Development.

Sunday, November 23, 2025: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia
St. Sylvan's, Dunseith: Valarie Davis, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Safe Church Team.

Sunday, November 30, 2025: The Anglican Church of Australia
Gethsemane Cathedral, Fargo: Mark Strobel, Dean; Duffy Williams, Priest; Charlotte Robbins and Terry Overbo, Deacons; Steve Smith, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Finance Committee: John Floberg, Diocesan Treasurer.

The quarterly Cycle of Prayer can be found on our website at: www.ndepiscopal.org/cycle-of-prayer

Sunday Collects

September 21, 2025: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

September 28, 2025: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

October 5, 2025: 4th 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.

October 12, 2025: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

October 19, 2025: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Lord, we pray that your grace may always proceed and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

October 26, 2025: 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession 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.

November 2, 2025: All Saints' Sunday

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

November 9, 2025: 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

November 16, 2025: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

November 23, 2025: Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings, and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

November 30, 2025: First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Calendar

Bishop Thom's Schedule

September 2025

- 24th-29th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 28th: Bishop's Visitation at St. Paul's, White Shield

October 2025

- 22nd-27th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 24th-25th: 55th Annual Diocesan Convention at Prairie Knights Casino, Fort Yates
- 26th: Bishop's Visitation at Gethsemane, Fargo and St. John the Divine, Moorhead

November 2025

- 19th-24th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 23rd: Bishop's Visitation at St. Paul's, Grand Forks

Diocesan Events and Dates to Note

September 2025

- 15th: Diocesan Convention Planning Committee Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 16th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 22nd: Diocesan Council Meeting (Zoom); 7pm
- 23rd: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 25th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Jamestown); 10am
- 28th: Bishop's Visitation: St. Paul's, White Shield
- 30th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm

October 2025

- 2nd: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Zoom); 10am
- 7th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 7th: Clergy and Congregational Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 7th: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 14th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 16th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Zoom); 10am
- 21st: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 23rd: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Prairie Knights Casino); 6pm
- 24th-25th: 55th Annual Diocesan Convention at Prairie Knights Casino, Fort Yates
- 26th: Bishop's Visitation: Gethsemane, Fargo and St. John the Divine, Moorhead
- 28th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm

November 2025

- 4th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 4th: Clergy and Congregational Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 4th: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- **11th: Diocesan Office Closed [Veterans' Day]**
- 11th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 18th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 21st-22nd: Diocesan Council (In-Person); Grand Forks
- 23rd: Bishop's Visitation: St. Paul's, Grand Forks
- 25th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- **27th-28th: Diocesan Office Closed [Thanksgiving]**

All noted times
are Central Time



The Sheaf

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