



THE SHEAF



Isaiah 2:1-5 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! **Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4** The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrong-doing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous— therefore judgment comes forth perverted. I will stand at my watch post, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith. **Haggai 1:15b-2:9** In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts. **Isaiah 65:17-25** For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Deus Incrementum Dat | God Gives the Growth

I Corinthians 3.6

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

Advent Edition ~ December 2025



Advent Message from our Bishop Provisional

The Rt. Rev. Brian Thom

Preparation for What?



With its intentions to be of spiritual assistance, the season of Advent (*to prepare*) has returned.

Yes, the Church has given us the season of Advent in an attempt to help us acknowledge, value, and celebrate the incarnation of God among us. It is a season set apart that we might raise our awareness of the meaning of that gift in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. If nothing else, a day of gratitude for the moment of the transformation of humanity would be worthy of annual observance.

To our dear benefit, the practical, yet spiritual offering of Advent reaches past a specific event in Bethlehem of Judea. Advent is an invitation to open our eyes to, even seek out, the moments of God's redeeming love that present themselves in our daily lives. Some come through personal reflection, yet most, I believe, are manifested in action – ours, and those of others.

To behold these manifestations...these *incarnations*...may necessitate a need for a keener awareness of the opportunities for loving action on our parts and/or a humbler willingness to perceive and receive the same from others.

Advent is a season of preparing to be Christ-like. We may also need to prepare to allow a sister or brother to be Christ-like to us. This latter state being, I believe, always the hardest, yet the best gift we can give ourselves each Advent...and always.

+*Brian*



Advent Message from our Bishop-Elect

The Very Rev. Shay Craig

My Beloveds,

I write to you on the eve of the Advent Season, the season of anticipation, the season of waiting, the season of unlimited promise and unimaginable potential. This year, the waiting, the wanting and the wondering of this season are made more acute as I look forward to joining you in ministry.



Ironically, I don't think that is a necessarily faithful posture to take into this holy season. The people into whose communities Jesus would bring transformative love, did not know when to expect him. Sure, there had been signs and portents, but then as now, people did the math wrong and stood all night on a hilltop, only to find that the NOW was not exactly now. They faithfully believed the prophets who promised that God would not leave them in a system of injustice, poverty and fear, but they did not have a countdown clock (even if we in the modern era have imposed one on them).



And even when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, even when there was a brilliant star and those with ears to hear listened to angels singing, it would be thirty years before the works of this Messiah began to be evident in their lives. The average lifespan of a person living in 1st Century Judea was 35 years, so even those who remembered the birth of Christ, would have passed away and it would be on the basis of rumor, desperation and weary faith that the first people to meet

the adult Jesus of Nazareth would ask, "Are you the one?"

Advent, then is not so much the beginning of the season of anticipation, as it is the end of the long years of not knowing. It is the beginning of the generations of faithful who will let themselves imagine that a new thing, a new creation in the Anointed One, was taking its baby steps. Advent is the season in which we glimpse the light that the darkness cannot overcome, and imagine the nature of its brilliance.

This is the charge I place on you this Advent: to begin to wonder how God is doing a new thing in your life, in our communal life and in North Dakota. To imagine expansively. To let our belief in God be the only limit on our dreams. To open our hearts to the unimaginable potential of a loving God working in a faithful people. And then to bring those dreams, hopes, wishes and imaginings to Christ on Epiphany, a fragrant offering of prayer.

Imagine...

I cannot promise you that any of the things we dream of in the coming weeks will come true. It is not in my hands; it is God's work that we will do together. But I can invite you into the season in which Mary riding on a donkey (maybe) dreamed about the future of her child and Joseph, walking alongside (also maybe) prayed for protection and an end to poverty, the prophet Anna imagined, the shepherds dreamed and the Magi let themselves be led. I invite you into the season of wonder.

I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. — Joel 2:28

You remain in my prayers,
Shay+

Advent Message from our Diocesan Missioner

Ashley Hubbard



I am hopeful that some of us will remember the British sitcom “*Waiting for God*” starring Graham Crowden as Tom Ballard and Stephanie Cole as Diana Trent. It ran on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) from June 1990 to October 1994, and I would watch it weekly with my grandmother back when PBS offered it as part of their Brit Wit program. The setting for this comedy is a fictional retirement home called Bayview Retirement Village, and the main characters Diana (a retired atheist photojournalist) and Tom (a former accountant of the Anglican tradition) develop an unlikely alliance together taunting staff, protesting the facility’s management practices, and causing many headaches with their mischief. They each try to influence the other’s world view along the way – even forming a romance – and live life on their own terms and help each other out of the tight situations they create by their trouble making. I enjoyed the series’ slapstick humor as it explored the themes of aging and the lengths this rebellious pair would go to create more tolerable living conditions for the Bayview residents.

As off topic as it may seem, this British comedy highlights how some of us approach the Advent season. We get busy at completing good deeds for the betterment of ourselves and others – and countdown to Christmas by consuming little chocolate candies. And why not? We are used to the waiting – we wait in lines at the grocery or waiting rooms at the doctor’s office. We wait for those big test results or for an estranged relative to call – and life can sometimes feel like we are stuck in the queue.



In the life of our diocese, we are experiencing a bit of waiting ourselves. For seven years, the diocese has waited prayerfully and patiently for a full-time residential bishop. We continue to be in a transition period where we wait for the new Bishop Elect to be consecrated. At some points along the way, I am sure it felt like you were waiting for God.

Be encouraged, God is with us in the waiting. As we enter this Advent season, I pray we focus on the themes of hope, preparation, joy, and love – but most especially on preparation. Let us find rhythms that restore us as we prepare our hearts and minds – and all of Creation – for Christ’s coming glory. Prepare ye the way of the LORD. Happy New (Church) Year!



Advent Message from our Diocesan Administrator

Deacon Jessica Krzewina

Happy New (Church) Year (and soon to be 2026)! Advent officially kicks off the start of our new liturgical year. As I was reflecting on the “turning of time” both in the church and calendar year, a memory from my days in the parish came to mind.

It was Christmas 2015, and I was getting ready to host my church’s annual Children’s Ministry Christmas Program. Most of my kiddos were gathered behind the stage curtain. Kids were practicing songs, trying to keep costumes on, and sitting as still as they could.



As I walked behind the curtain, something caught my eye. Three of my littlest kiddos were laying on their tummies, peeking at the crowd. They desperately wanted to see where the low hum of small talk was coming from. They were watching the crowd, waving here and there.

I came up to them and asked what they were doing. They looked up at me, and my answer to their questioning gaze, was to join them on the stage floor. I lay down on my tummy and together we peeked under the curtain. My kiddos just wanted to see what was going on. We looked for a few moments and then we got up and finished getting ready for the program.

As I reflect on this story, I start to feel like a little kid as the seasons change, both in the church and calendar year. I desperately want to peek under the "curtain of life." What will this year hold?

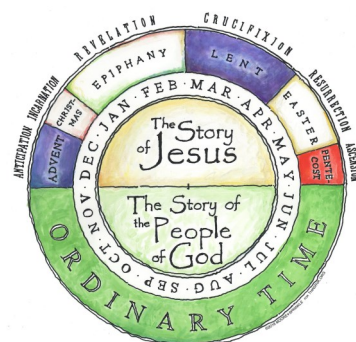
- What will happen in the 3rd week of February?
- What does the 2nd weekend of March look like? **HINT, HINT* a consecration....*
- Will my dog Sadie ever learn to not stand in the middle of where I am walking?

I find myself asking God to lift the curtain, simply so I can get a peek. I do not need to see all of it, just a brief glimpse will do. But, alas, that is not to be the case. Two Bible passages come to mind, when I find myself wondering what this new year will bring.

- *“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”- Jeremiah 29:11*
- *So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. - Matthew 6:34*

As much as it is bothersome to not always know what is coming next, it is also a massive blessing. Because to tell you the truth, if I know what happens at a specific point of the year, without knowing anything that leads up to it, I would just worry and fret until it happened.

We all must rest in the knowledge that God knows what will happen. God knows what Year A in the Lectionary Cycle and year 2026 will bring, just as God knew what would unfold in years’ past. Today's trouble is enough for today. Leave the 3rd week of February for the 3rd week in February!



The St. John's Bible at the University of Jamestown

Phyllis Bratton; Grace, Jamestown

In September, the University of Jamestown celebrated the renovation and redesign of the historic Voorhees Chapel and the opening of the Reuben and Clarice Leichty Center for Faith and Life. One of the treasures of the new building is a copy of the Heritage Edition of the St. John's Bible, which is on display in three different locations throughout the Chapel and the Center.

The St. John's Bible was commissioned by St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN, and is the first illuminated, handwritten Bible of monumental size to be created on behalf of the Benedictines in 500 years. It contains all 73 books of the Bible in seven volumes, and was executed by Donald Jackson, the Chief Scribe to the Crown Office of the United Kingdom, in a script that was created especially for this project. Seven scribes learned and practiced the script for a year before undertaking the work of copying. At least sixteen artists worked to illustrate it in vibrant colors, precious metals, and breathtaking images.

The original is in St. John's, but 299 printed versions were created for other institutions to enjoy and use in their services. The University of Jamestown has number 168, donated by Trustee Elmer Schindel. The Bible may be seen whenever the Chapel is not in use, and people are encouraged to turn the pages and marvel at this lovely work of art and scripture.

Phyllis Bratton, Grace Episcopal Church, is the University Archivist and has the keys to the cases! Anyone wishing to see the St. John's Bible may schedule an appointment with her at pbratton@uj.edu.

For more information click [here](#).



Calendar

**All noted times are Central Time*

Bishop Thom's Schedule

December 2025

- 10th-16th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 14th: Bishop's Visitation at All Saints, Minot

February 2026

- 4th-8th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 8th: Bishop's Visitation at St. George's, Bismarck
- 12th-17th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 15th: Bishop's Visitation at St. John the Divine, Moorhead



Diocesan Events and Dates to Note

December 2025

- 9th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 11th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Jamestown); 10am
- 14th: Bishop's Visitation: All Saints, Minot
- 16th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 18th: *Canoeing the Mountains* Leadership Book Study (Zoom); 12:30pm & 6:30pm
- 23rd: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 25th: Diocesan Office Closed (Christmas)
- 30th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm

January 2026

- 1st: Diocesan Office Closed (New Year's Day)
- 6th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 6th: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 6th: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 8th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Zoom); 10am
- 13th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 15th: *Canoeing the Mountains* Leadership Book Study (Zoom); 12:30pm & 6:30pm
- 19th: Diocesan Office Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- 20th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 27th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 29th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Zoom); 10am



February 2026

- 3rd: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 3rd: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 3rd: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 8th: Bishop's Visitation: St. George's, Bismarck
- 10th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 13th-14th: Diocesan Council Meeting (In-person); Grace, Jamestown
- 15th: Bishop's Visitation: St. John the Divine, Moorhead
- 16th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Fargo); 10am
- 17th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm
- 19th: *Canoeing the Mountains* Leadership Book Study (Zoom); 12:30pm & 6:30pm
- 24th: Lectionary Lectio (Zoom); 12pm



Advent Resources from The Episcopal Church

www.episcopalchurch.org/advent-and-christmas-resources/

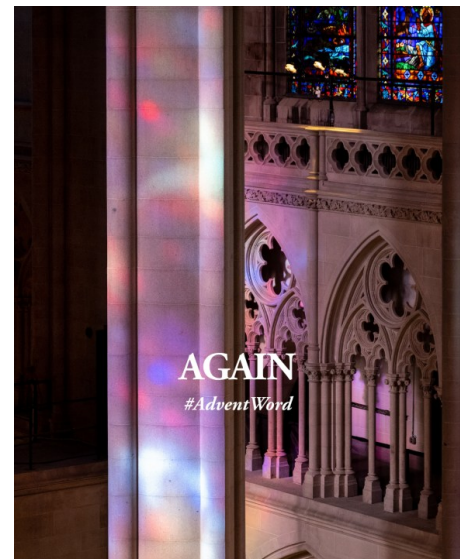
In Luke's telling of the Christmas story, startled shepherds are the first to hear that good news of great joy given to all people. Since then, through generations and generations, across the world, we keep sharing this Good News, receiving signs from God that, in the coming of Jesus Christ, we have received the greatest gift of all.

The Episcopal Church wants to help you and your congregation share that Good News with each other and your neighborhoods, especially this Advent and Christmas. Find our free resources based on invitation, the Way of Love, racial reconciliation, faith formation, and more below.

**All of these resources can be found online at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/advent-and-christmas-resources/>. If you need help navigating and/or finding resources, please contact Jessica in the Diocesan Office.

AdventWord Forward Movement

Forward Movement convenes another year of AdventWord, an inspirational online Advent calendar featuring a daily prompt word selected from the Sunday lectionary readings. Email subscribers and social media followers receive a daily meditation and visual image inspired by the day's word, and are invited to share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression. Downloadable bulletin inserts are available for churches to encourage participation at home. Learn more at adventword.org.



Free Christmas Gratitude Game United Thank Offering

There are so many things to give thanks for during the Christmas season and UTO wants to help you and your friends/family share your Christmas stories of gratitude this holiday season. Just print out the cards and game board and gather round to share your stories as you work your way to the end of the game.

Printable Letter to Santa United Thank Offering

If you're looking for a way to help a child you love think about their Christmas list differently then we've got a free printable for you! This one page letter offers fill in the blank areas. One way to show Santa how Nice you've been this year, is to tell him what you're grateful for! Next, there are categories for gifts the child might like. (We love that it asks them to think about something to share...this can be a gift they donate or something they can share with a relative or neighbor.)

DEAR SANTA,
My name is _____
This year I am grateful for:
PERSON _____
PLACE _____
THING _____
For Christmas this year I would like:
SOMETHING TO READ: _____
SOMETHING I NEED: _____
SOMETHING TO WEAR: _____
SOMETHING TO SHARE: _____
SOMETHING I WANT: _____
THANK YOU, SANTA!  **SEE YOU SOON!**
For more resources like this one visit: www.unitedthankoffering.com



Advent Toolkit Episcopal Relief & Development

Join Episcopal Relief & Development each week in Advent to create, learn, and pray. There are DIY projects for families and communities that will take you from Advent to Christmas and through Epiphany., You will find: DIY wreath ideas with prayers and reflections, DIY creche ideas and information about St. Nicholas. There is also a guide to hosting an alternative gift market and ERD's *Gifts for Life* catalog.

Advent Prayer Vigil & Podcast Episcopal Migration Ministries

The prayer vigil liturgy, offered by Episcopal Migration Ministries, is an excellent way to remember those fleeing persecution, war, and seeking safety, just as Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus did. Meanwhile, Advent: Stories of Movement and Migration, a podcast series from the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, features audio stories, discussion guides, and more.



St. Gabriel's Camp

The Rev. John Floberg



St. Gabriel's Camp is beginning to prepare for the 2026 Camping Season. In addition to onsite camping sessions at St. Gabriel's, a Backpacking Excursion is being planned with Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp in the Gallitan National Forest of Montana.

Early last August a preliminary excursion was made with five to join the Backpacking Group that was guided by Christikon Camp Staff. These mountains are fifty miles north of Yellowstone National Park. The youth ministry team from Standing Rock will lead another group to Christikon the very end of July and into August of the 2026 season. Transportation from Bismarck will be arranged for anyone joining in with this group leaving from Standing Rock. The cost for this excursion is \$500 per senior high youth. Adults may join the trail group as well.

In addition to teens going backpacking, there is an opportunity at Christikon for Continuing Education for clergy and lay leaders. While the topic for the 2026 session is yet to be announced, these gatherings prove to be informative, transformative, and renewing

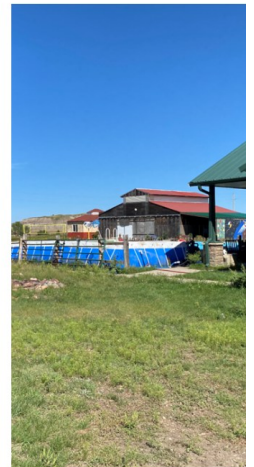
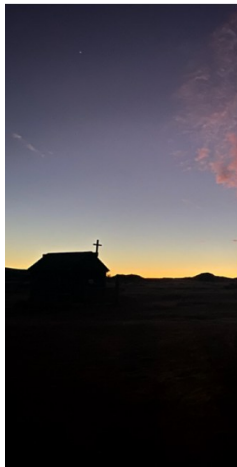
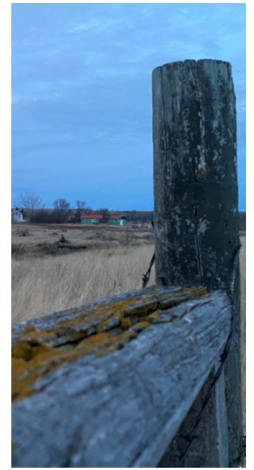
for all within the context of a mountain retreat. Adults from a congregation may select to stay in camp for the Continuing Ed while their senior high youth take to the mountain trails.

Meanwhile, back at St. Gabriel's, camps are being planned for June 9-12, 23-25 and July 14-16. These camps are open to youth in Middle School through Senior High. They start by noon on Tuesday and end just prior to supper time on Thursday. Those coming from beyond Bismarck may arrive at Camp on Monday evening and stay through until Friday morning as needed.

Our Camps offer a host of opportunities to hike, kayak, tube behind a speed boat, have an afternoon of swimming, playing individual and group games, join in singing, worship and hearing talks that are Christ centered and teen relevant.

St. Gabriel's does not charge for these multi-night camp sessions. Registration/release forms are required and can be downloaded from the diocesan web site. Adults from each sending congregation are also helpful in the running of these camps. Camp is a place to have a common experience between those "in camp."

The Camp is also available for other diocesan groups who would like to use the facility. Again, there is no fee for use, but the group will need to provide their own food and bedding. We are able to do that because of solar panels for electricity and geothermal for AC in the Star Lodge. The Camp can lodge up to 70 people – but there is more elbowroom when there are fewer than 60. Meals are prepared on a griddle, grills and several ovens.



55th Diocesan Convention Recap

Date: October 24-25, 2025

Location: Fort Yates, ND

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

Election Results:

- **Convention Secretary:** Amy Phillips; St. Stephen's, Fargo
- **Treasurer:** The Rev. John Floberg; Standing Rock
- **Standing Committee, Clergy (2-yr term):** The Rev. Peter Akicmeir; St. John the Divine, Moorhead
- **Standing Committee, Clergy (3-yr term):** The Rev. Jamie Parsley; St. Stephen's, Fargo
- **Standing Committee, Lay (3-yr term):** Carmine Goodhouse; St. Luke's, Fort Yates
- **Diocesan Council, West Region (3-yr term):** The Rev. Dn. Angela Goodhouse, St. Luke's, Fort Yates; and The Rev. Hal Weidman, St. George's, Bismarck
- **Diocesan Council, East Region (3-yr term):** The Rev. Dn. Elsie Magnus, St. Peter's, Walhalla; and The Rev. Harvey Henderson, St. Paul's, Grand Forks
- **General Convention Deputation, Clergy:** The Rev. John Floberg, Standing Rock; The Very Rev. Mark Strobel, Gethsemane, Fargo; The Rev. Hal Weidman, St. George's, Bismarck; and The Rev. Dn. Angela Goodhouse, St. Luke's, Fort Yates
- **General Convention Deputation, Lay:** Carmine Goodhouse, St. Luke's, Fort Yates; Leah Henderson, St. Paul's, Grand Forks; Tyrrell DeCoteau, St. Sylvan's, Dunseith; and Vanessa Strobel, Gethsemane, Fargo

Budget:

- The 2026 proposed budget was approved at the business session on Friday, October 24, 2025. The budget is available on our website, along with the budget narrative.
[www.ndepiscopal.org/2025diocesanconvention/]



Bishop's Election Results

Congratulations with prayers of thanksgiving and support for The Very Rev. Shay Craig elected on October 25, 2025 as the XII Bishop of the Diocese of North Dakota!

Her ministry with us will begin on February 1, 2026. Her consecration as Bishop will take place on March 14, 2026 in Fargo, ND.

ND Cycle of Prayer



Sunday, December 7, 2025

The Church of Bangladesh

St. Stephen's, Fargo: Jamie Parsley, Rector; John Anderson and Suzanne MacEwen, Deacons; Laura Nylander, Senior Warden; and for the work and ministry of the Mothers' Union and the Daughters of the King.

Sunday, December 14, 2025

The Episcopal Church of Brazil

St. Thomas, Fort Totten; Ila Mckay, Senior Warden; and for the work of the Diocesan Reconciliation and Creation Care Committee.

Sunday, December 21, 2025

The Anglican Church of Burundi

St. Luke's, Fort Yates: John Floberg, Rector; Lindsey Dwarf, Priest; Sloane Floberg, Angela Goodhouse, Deacons; Carmine Goodhouse, Sr. Warden; and for United Thank Offering: Vanessa Strobel and Mary Massad, co-coordinators.

Sunday, December 28, 2025

The Anglican Church of Canada

Bread of Life Preaching Station at the ND State Penitentiary; and for the North Dakota Episcopal Foundation: Beth Lipp, president.

Sunday, January 4, 2026

The Church of the Province of Central Africa

St. Paul's, Grand Forks: Harvey Henderson, Priest, Don Leroux, Deacon, Susan Owens, Senior Warden; and for Episcopal Relief and Development.

Sunday, January 11, 2026

The Anglican Church in Central America

Grace Church, Jamestown: Robert Hoekstra, Rector; Melissa Post van der Burg, Deacon; Tish Johnson, Senior Warden; and for those in the ordination process.

Sunday, January 18, 2026

The Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo

All Saints, Minot; Kathy Hintz, Senior Warden; and for the Canons Committee: Leo Wilking, chair.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

The Anglican Church of Chile

St. John the Divine, Moorhead: Peter Akicmeir, Priest; Barbara Olson & Hellen Lodu, Deacons; Oliver Mogga, Senior Warden; and for the Community of Deacons: The Rev. Dn. Sloane Floberg & The Rev. Dn. Terry Overbo, co-chairs.

Sunday, February 1, 2026

The Church of England

Church of the Cross, Selfridge: John Floberg, Rector; Sloane Floberg, Deacon; Sylvia Culbertson, Senior Warden; and for the Standing Committee: Jason Thoms, president.

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

Sunday Collects

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

December 28, 2025

First Sunday after Christmas

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of our Lord

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

All Sunday collects are taken from The Episcopal Church Lectionary Calendar: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lectionary/>

Washington National Cathedral

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services—Livestreamed

www.cathedral.org

Christmas Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2025 @ 5:00pm

“Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives.”

Readings from Holy Scripture, favorite hymns, and instrumental music carry us from Creation to the manger in Bethlehem, telling the ancient story of God’s continuing love as made known in Christ.



Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2025 @ 9:00pm

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Join us for one of the most beautiful services of the year as we herald the Light made known to us on this holy night. We celebrate Christ’s birth with readings from Holy Scripture, favorite hymns, and seasonal choral and instrumental music.



Christmas Day Festival Holy Eucharist

December 25, 2025 @ 10:15am

“Glory to the newborn King.”

Join us for the festive morning service as we mark the birth of Christ with readings from Holy Scripture, favorite hymns, and seasonal choral and instrumental music.



Be sure to visit <https://cathedral.org/worship/christmas-advent/> to check out all the different worship services and musical offerings the National Cathedral hosts during Advent and Christmas.



The Sheaf

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The Sheaf—Advent Edition

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