



The Flame

November 2024

Our Mission is to be a welcoming place where people meet Christ and grow in their relationship with God through our worship, service, and fellowship.

Oktoberfest

What a night. Once again, we were sold out as members invited friends and family to join in the fun. As always, the food was great and the trivia challenging. Thanks to all who donated items for the prize table. We have never enjoyed the plethora of items to choose from. Of course, this event would not have been possible without the outstanding effort of our kitchen team. Marcia Adams, Lori Stevens, and Sharon Jones. A shout out to Dave McCarrison who helped build our trivia quizzes, Ryan Misek who coordinated our pouring team, Marcia who decorated the parish hall, and Sharon who put together the wonderful prize table. And we cannot go without thanking all who joined in the fun making the night one filled with joy.



Fr. Tom's Tidbits



This month marks the end of my 16th full year as your rector. On one hand, it is hard to believe it has been 16 years, on the other, how time flies. As I look back over our time together, I am amazed at all we have done and how far we have come. Do we face challenges in the coming year? Yes, but we have faced challenges before and have always overcome whatever we face by working together, each of doing as we can. I am confident, with God's help, we will continue to do so, growing stronger as we do.

I remember when I arrived. It was the week of the Thanksgiving Eve service, and the beginning of a very busy time in the life of the church. I was sure I was ready, but quickly found out how unready I was. I am so thankful for all those who helped me get through those first few months and really, that first full year. The foundation you helped create has been one that has supported us all these years. I know, in my heart, you will do the same for your new rector, once they have been selected. Until then, we are going to continue to do what we are called to do, being faithful witnesses to the love of God revealed to us first in and through Jesus, and now in and through those God places in our lives.

While I no longer feel unready, I will admit there are times I still feel overwhelmed. The time between Christmas and Easter is one of those times. As we prepare to enter this busy time in the life of our parish, I want to share how thankful I am for all our ministry teams to keep things going, and for the assistance our new Deacons now offer. It is a real blessing to share with them the work we do. I know there are times they feel overwhelmed as well, and that they would gladly welcome anyone who might wish to join in their ministry. If you are not currently part of a ministry team, I encourage you to pray about where God might need your gifts and talents most. If unsure, please visit with me, Dcn Terri, or Dcn Ted, and let us help you make the right connection, so that what you do feels like a blessing and not a burden.

As we enter this most holy (and yes sometimes chaotic) time in the life of the church, may each of us find the joy and blessings it offers as we come together to celebrate and bear witness to the love of God we know in our lives, and that as we do, those who see the hope we embrace will seek it in their lives too.

Father Tom

The church office will be closed Friday, November 8 and Monday, November 11th in honor of Veteran's Day



The church office will be closed Thursday November 28th and Friday November 29th for the Holidays



Rector Search Update

We are waiting for the church profile to come back from the Diocesan office. Then we will post it. The Search will begin.

Bill French



**News from the
Search Committee**

Deacons Corner

Greetings!!

Let's talk about newcomers (to our church).

Have you ever been looking for a new church after moving into a new town? What resources did you use to help you find the right place? Internet? Neighbors? An ad in the newspaper? These are good places to start but are no substitute for an actual visit to the church.

Once at the new church, what did you look for? A well-maintained building? A red door? Greeters to welcome you and point out the books that we use and show you where to sit? A bulletin to guide you through the liturgy? What is available for my children?

All these things, and more, combine to make the newcomer feel welcome and at peace with the Lord. When I go to church, I want to be immersed in God's love and feel the power of the Holy Spirit. I am sure that we all do – even the newcomers.

At some point, the newcomer will make a decision to stay or leave. If they want to be a part of the church, then our Spirit Hub can come into play and the people behind the desk can talk about what is available or get someone else to help them. Just think of all the ministries we have to offer or activities to attend! Let us not forget about all the volunteer activities there are as well. Enable the newcomer to become involved without having a waiting period.

Make sure that they sign in and leave their contact information so that a thank you card can be sent to them.

We were all newcomers to the Church of the Holy Spirit at some time in the past. Let us all of us think back to what urged us to attend and then what led us to stay there and enjoy the family that has become our home away from home.

Deacon Ted



Parish Life

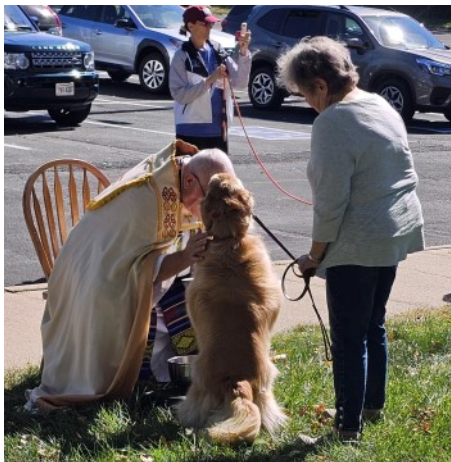
Annual Council

This year, there were no contentious issues facing the diocese and as a result we were able to celebrate the many ministries going on across the diocese. Through the wonderful presentations and many ministry displays, it was exciting to see the energy and faithfulness of the many parishes across the state. An unexpected announcement came when Vic Culp, introducing this year's recipient of the Bishop's Cross, said the name of our own Fr Tom. The Bishop's Cross is awarded each year to one clergy and one lay member of the diocese who has been exceptionally inspirational, and who in which Christ has been sought out and served in unique ways. Fr Tom was awarded the cross for his many years of work with mission and youth.



Pet Blessing

Last month's blessing of the animal's service was blessed with a great turnout and beautiful weather. Thank you to Kristi Smith who coordinated the treats for our guests and their human partners.



Spring Ahead, Fall Back



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday (2 Nov) before going to bed so that you don't arrive too early to church on Sunday morning. We pray the extra hour of sleep is both restful and a blessing.

Special Coffee Hour Presentation

On Sunday (17 Nov), following our 9:30 service, we will welcome Ms. Sadie Hinkel to CHS. She will be offering us a short informative presentation on the history, signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's, along with a time for questions. Also available will be additional resources for seeking help in dealing with this all-too-common disease.



2025 Budget

This month the Vestry will be finalizing our budget plan for 2025. With Fr Tom's pending retirement, the increased cost of a new rector, primarily due to the anticipated increase in health insurance costs, is creating for us a significant hurdle to overcome. Your Vestry asks, if you have not yet completed your 2025 estimate of giving card, to please do so as soon as possible or visit our website (www.chsepisopal.org) and click on the **Make A Pledge** button in the upper right corner of our home page.



Altar Guild



Altar Guild is busy gearing up for a busy Advent season. On Tuesday (26 Nov) at 10am, our ladies will meet at the church to polish silver and fluff the greens in preparation for decorating the church. Thank you ladies for your support and dedication to this service. Barb and Sue

Thanksgiving Eve Service



Mark your calendars! Our annual Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on Wednesday (27 Nov) beginning at 6:30pm. As always, the service will be followed by hanging the holiday greenery and our annual pie feast. Families are asked to bring their favorite pie to share and then to join in the celebration.



Presence Candles and Communion Bread

It is once again time to begin forming our presence candle and communion bread rotations.

Presence candles, which sit alongside the tabernacle, in both the sanctuary and chapel, remind us of God's nearness in the reserved sacrament our tabernacles contain. Each year, we invite members to donate \$25, in thanksgiving, or in memory, a candle for one month of their choice. A sign-up sheet is located at the Spirit Hub for members to let us know the month desired. If the month you desire is filled in, we have been known to have more than one family sponsoring a candle. Also at the Spirit Hub, are blue cards to be filled out and forwarded to the office to let us know if you wish to give in thanksgiving or in memory. Without these cards we have no way of knowing your intentions



Communion Bread is baked by members of our parish. A recipe can be found on the bulletin board outside the office. Like the presence candle, members are invited to provide the loaves needed for a month. If you are hesitant, rest assured, the recipe provided is simple and easy to follow. A sign-up sheet is located at the Spirit Hub where volunteers can let us know what month they would like to provide.



Outreach

Moving Vets Forward



Thanks to the parish's generosity, we raised just over \$750 for Moving Vets Forward. With those funds we were able to purchase 7 microwave ovens, 10 blankets, 10 bed sheet sets, 4 mattress pads, and 4 Bibles.



Trunk or Treat

Another successful Trunk or Treat. While the numbers were down from last year, we estimated only about 150 neighborhood youth attended, we were ready to meet them in the parking lot with open trunks, beautifully decorated, lots of candy, and in the parish hall, games where they could win more candy and prizes. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to make this event something we heard the neighborhood looks forward to each year.



Thanksgiving Boxes

This month we will once again be providing the Bellevue Food Pantry with Thanksgiving Box sets. Each box will feed a family of four and includes a \$25 Baker's gift card so that families can choose for themselves the protein they will enjoy on the holiday. There is still a few days to contribute to this outreach project. The estimated cost per box is \$45 and our goal is 40 boxes this year.



Dominican Republic Mission

Once again, a team of DioNeb volunteers are heading off to the Dominican Republic to work alongside the parishioners of Mission Santa Ana. After two years serving this community, this will likely be the last trip to Mission Santa Ana as the building repairs and upgrades are largely complete. Fr Tom, along with Fr John Schaefer, are working with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic to relocate to the center of the island near the city of Santiago. This is an area that DioNeb worked in 15 years ago and now needs the help and encouragement our teams offer. To learn more about how you can take part in this important work, contact Fr Tom. Dates for 2025 trips can be found on the chapel bulletin board.



Mobile Pantry

We did not have a pantry in October but do have one scheduled for Sat (16 Nov). As always volunteers are needed and asked to arrive by 9:30am. Distribution will begin at 10am and go until 11:30am. Please watch for our Facebook announcement and help us spread the word by sharing it on Facebook with family and friends.



Youth Activities

Bellevue Berry Farm

Last month's trip to the Berry Farm was awesome. We had a great turnout and nice weather. Special thanks to Sharon Jones and Lori Stevens who coordinated hot dogs over the campfire and S'Mores following our hayride through the haunted ranch.



Self Defense Training



Thanks to Deacon Terri for joining our Journeys youth in October to offer a class on self-defense. They had a great time and learned a lot. We welcome any other members of the church who have special talents they would like to share with our youth. If you have an idea of something to offer, please visit with Fr Tom.

Halloween Party

Following a great time at Trunk or Treat, our youth group enjoyed a night of games during their journeys time. Youth were invited to wear costumes. The only stipulation was they had to relate their costume in some way to the bible. The stories they offered, while not always accurate, were fun to hear.



Acolyte Training



This month, Deacon Ted will be offering a training session for all current and prospective acolytes. During the training, acolytes will find the right size vestment to wear, review the role they have in worship, and according to Deacon Ted, have some fun as they do. The training session will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday (3 Nov) shortly after the 9:30am service ends.

Youth Group Roller Skating

On Wednesday (20 Nov) parish youth are invited to join our journeys youth for a night of fun at Skate City. This event is free for parish youth (8-18) who pre-register at the Spirit Hub. The cost for friends or family who will skate is \$5.



Advent Workshop



Our Christian Ed team will host an Advent Workshop during coffee hour on Sunday (24 Nov). There will be crafts and activities for all ages. Please plan to join in the fun as we begin our preparations for the Christmas season.

Sunday School

This fall our curriculum will walk us through the Old Testament. We are making Jesse Tree ornaments so we can see how God's story in the Old Testament leads to the amazing birth of Jesus!

November 2nd is our ALL-SAINTS PARTY. November 24th, we will hold an ADVENT WORKSHOP downstairs during coffee hour. This is a time for kids of all ages to make ornaments, crafts, or an Advent Wreath in preparation for Christmas. The congregation is invited to join our youth kids in this fun time!

Starting December 1st, the Sunday School will start rehearsing for the Nativity during Sunday School time. We will continue with the Jesse Tree ornaments as well.

On December 22nd, the NATIVITY PLAY will happen during the 9:30am service. All kids regardless of attendance are encouraged to join us! Speaking parts will be rehearsed during Sunday School, but there will be "walk-on" parts for everyone. We hope your family chooses to be part of this tribute to the miracle of Jesus coming to Earth.



Vestry Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2024

Search Committee Update:

Bill French has submitted the parish profile to the diocese October 6th. They will have someone reformat it & then post. We don't know when it will be posted yet.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Operational Expense Review by Fr. Tom: Pledge offering is down to 94% but Fr. Tom expects that to rise as the fall programs begin. Overall, we are at 97% on our operating income. This is a good place to be as we head into the latter part of the year. The only thing that was a little more expensive was the subscription to the cloud help desk. All Ministry expenses were all within the budgeted area. We are still in the black year-to date at \$6100.

CIE Report:

\$580 Miscellaneous; Octoberfest, Trunk or Treat, Magnetic calendars are here. DOK fund: \$400 gift for Terri Storm's ordination. \$236 Rector Checking account for family assistance. \$8000 discretionary fund that was motioned last month for building fund and lighting fund. Building fund: \$2160 was tree removal and phone system update. Youth fund was for one of our outings. Moving Vets Forward: \$245 and we purchased 7 microwaves. There will be more we can add to that. \$3358 for driveway lights. There will be another expense on that next month because they forgot to bill the shipping fee. **M10-10-01:** Rick Horejs moved and Barb Smith seconded to accept the report as presented. Unanimously approved. **M10-10-02** Patrick Howell moved and Rick Horejs seconded to pay the bills. Unanimously approved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fr. Tom is going on vacation tomorrow. Fr. Mark Selvey will be here this weekend. Next weekend deacons Terri & Ted will lead morning and evening prayer. No supply priest was available.

Annual Council and Trunk or Treat are coming up. On Saturday November 2nd we have Lee Moffett's wedding here at 11am. They will need the church all day long. Patrick will open up the church that morning.

Installation of the New Presiding Bishop is also November 2nd. They will show it online. Once I get a link I will send it out to the parish. It begins at 9am our time. November 3rd is All Saints. Wednesday November 6th we will be doing the Thanksgiving boxes. Anyone can join us. It will be around 11:30am. Fr. Tom leaves for the D.R. November 9th and Mark Selvey will be our supply priest again. Friday December 6th at 6:30pm will be Vestry Dinner at Fr. Tom's house. Vestry on November 14th, Mobile Pantry November 16th, November 17th, There will be a speaker on Dementia during coffee hour.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/UPDATES

Water Damage: Cindy said there was no update on the water damage reimbursement. The insurance still has not responded.

Sanctuary lighting: Fr. Tom heard from Phil; they are still looking at a November installation. The microphone updates are still not here.

2025 Giving cards are here & will be going out this weekend.

Driveway lighting: All new lighting in the driveway has been installed. The broken light above the red doors is under warranty and we will hopefully get that fixed when the new Sanctuary lighting is installed.

New Phone system replacement is in place.

Endowment Fund Grant requests are due by 15 Dec. Please remind your ministries.

Vestry members and ministry teams were encouraged to check and empty their mailboxes.

Vestry members were asked to carefully review the VPoD checklist and notify Cindy if any changes are needed.

The checklist provide valuable information about preparing the building for worship securing it before leaving.

2025 Budget: Draft #3 of the upcoming budget was discussed. Our total income is expected to be \$229,956 which is a small drop. Operating expenses will go up, especially because of the cost of paper rising. Bank checks, \$1800, Day by Day was in 2 budgets so it was taken out of Christian Ed. Fund. Postage will be down. Fr. Tom bought extra rolls this year. Cleaning services will be up due to paper costs. Utilities, we brought up to \$5000 for now. Prices should be lower than 2 years ago. Rector search: Cindy has a meeting with Canon Liz and Beth Bryne to determine our compensation number. Then we will have a better idea of the total. Ministry budgets have all come in except 4. We are currently \$20,000 in the hole for next year if we meet the expected contributions.

Christian Ed. Our team will have an All-Saints party Sunday November 3rd.

Troop 483: Rick said scouting is going well and they have voting for leadership coming up. They now have half girls and half boys running.

Trunk or Treat: Judy checked that volunteers should arrive at 2:30pm on Sunday October 27th. Fr. Tom needs more volunteers for the inside games. It will go from 3-5pm.

DECISION ITEMS

We received a check for \$33,000 from the insurance company to repair the roof. By the time we could get the roofing company involved, the chalk marks were washed away. The roofing company does not see any damage that needs to be fixed. It was recommended we place the funds received into the Endowment Fund for future repairs as needed. **M10-10-03:** Fr. Tom moves we move the money to the endowment fund and earmark it until we know what needs to be done. Judy Darell seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

M10-10-04: Cindy Pekarek motioned to adjourn the meeting. Judy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of September 30, 2024

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 15,610.00	\$ 17,512.17	\$ 148,670.00	\$ 157,609.50
Other Inc.	<u>\$ 1,620.70</u>	<u>\$ 2,415.83</u>	<u>\$ 25,535.64</u>	<u>\$ 21,742.50</u>
Total Inc	\$ 17,230.71	\$ 19,928.00	\$ 174,205.64	\$ 179,352.00
Expenses	\$ 19,296.09	\$ 20,032.67	<u>\$ 168,102.74</u>	\$ 180,294.00
			\$ 6,102.90	

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!



Nov. 03 - All Saints Day
Nov. 03 - Acolyte Training - 10:30am
Nov. 03 - Worship Committee Meeting - 11am
Nov. 09 - 15 - Dio-Neb Adult DR Mission Trip
Nov. 08 - Office Closed
Nov. 10 - Finance Committee Meeting - 11:00am
Nov. 11 - Office closed for Veterans Day
Nov. 16 - Mobile Food Pantry - 10 - 11:30am
Nov. 16 - DOK Meeting - 11am
Nov. 21 - Vestry Meeting - 6:30pm
Nov. 24 - Advent Workshop for All - 10:30am
Nov 26 - Altar Guild polish & fluff - 10am
Nov 27 - Service and Pie - 6:30pm
Nov. 28 & 29 - Office Closed

LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Ministries	Nov 3	Nov 10	Nov 17	Nov 24
VPOD	Patrick H	Vince C	Rick H	Cindy P
Hospitality Team 9:30 am <i>Greeters ,Ushers & Coffee Hour Host</i>	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Spirit Hub	Jean C / Karen G	Pauline P	Bill F	Journeys
Altar Bread	Ryan M	Ryan M	Ryan M	Ryan M
Recycle Team	Jan S	Marcia A	Susan H	Karen G
LEM Saturday 5:00 pm	Brian C	Kathy B Toby W	Kristi S	Charlotte A
LEM Sunday 8:00 am	Doug A	Dcn Terri	Doug A	Dcn Ted
LEM Sunday 9:30 am	Vincent C Carol S	Lori E Jen W	Jan S Michele H	Brian C Lori E
Acolytes Crucifer Torch Torch	Isaiah JH Mya H MacKenzie C	Evelynn C Vincent C Mya H	Isaiah CH Olivia H MacKenzie C	Kyper M Vincent C Ailynn M

*Please submit articles for the
 December 2024 FLAME to the
 church office by November 18th.
 Thank you*



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November



Regular Services:

Sunday: 8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II *
Wednesday: 9:30 am Holy Eucharist *
Saturday: 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist
* Broadcast live on Facebook

Education: September - May

Sunday: Sunday School @ 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study @ 10:15 am
Journey to Adulthood @ 6:30 pm

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am–3:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am–Noon

Rector's Day Off:

Friday

The Flame is a monthly production of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, in Bellevue, Nebraska. We welcome all stories, pictures, and suggestions, but must reserve the right to choose what we can print. Please send articles and pictures to CHS Admin at holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org. The next deadline for submitting news is November 18th.

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