

# SEPTEMBER TIDINGS

Volume 5, Issue 9

September 2023

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## A Reflection from your Priest-in-Charge



*Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up as something we do in daily practice, not just something that we wish for or talk about. It is a discipline requiring skill, competence, steadiness, and courage. It is practical. It bonds us to each other, and to real places, animals, trees, waters, and landscapes. The hopeful are patient, not passive. . . . They are people who will know how to connect us to better possibilities waiting to be born.* - David Orr

David Orr describes the kind of hope with which we begin this program year.

It is a hope grounded in experience and faith.

It is a hope that will enable us to do new things, build new relationships, and imagine new possibilities.

It is a hope that will be a lens through which to look at our past: our gambles, our successes, our mistakes.

It is a hope that will guide our mission and our faith formation.

It is with this hope that you will continue preparations for new ministry by studying your building, talking with other congregations, and reflecting on your own gifts.

It is with this hope that we will begin some new programs this year:

**Prayer Partners:** each week each of us will pick the name of someone to pray for.

### Ecumenical Discussion Series:

**The Chosen:** We are partnering with Bethlehem Lutheran to host a monthly discussion of *The Chosen*, a video series about the life and ministry of Jesus.

**Lunch and Learn:** A monthly mid-day discussion group.

**Sunday School:** Our children will meet during the service one Sunday each month for an hour-long class based on the VBS curriculum and close with Holy Communion in the chapel.

**Teens:** Our teens will partner with youth from Bethlehem Lutheran for faith formation, service projects, and fellowship.

**Sleep-Out 4 Homelessness:** We will support this first annual event sponsored by St. Luke's Guesthouse as part of a national effort to raise awareness and advocacy for the homeless..

I'm beginning this year with deep gratitude and hope.

*Mother Judith*



## Vestry Highlights — August 9, 2023

### Resolved:

⇒ Transferred \$6477 from Memorial Funds to the Legacy Fund

### Preparing for new ministry:

⇒ Set 2 Sundays in the fall to hold the Eucharist in the Parish Hall, followed by a presentation by one of the Vestry committees:

\* September 17<sup>th</sup> Building Subcommittee

\* October 15<sup>th</sup> Exploring Alternative models of ministry

### Discussion: What have we done well?

⇒ Prayer Bead Workshop

⇒ Hospitality: organizing storage cupboards and setting up a new schedule for coffee hour

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## Daughters of the King

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Susan Grant for her many years of dedication and leadership in the service of the Mary & Martha Chapter of the Daughters of the King at Holy Trinity Church. She has been an inspiration to me as I have watched her dedicate herself to the ministry, mission and outreach programs of the Daughters of the King, ensuring our continuing growth and fulfilling our daughters' vows. She has left big shoes to fill! At the last meeting of the Daughters of the King, I had the privilege of being elected as the new president of the Mary & Martha chapter here at Holy Trinity Church. Our Mission work continues. We are still collecting for our Liberian Mission Project. We hope to send the school supplies shipment in the early Fall. Any help that you could provide would be appreciated. We are looking for trade books, textbooks, workbooks, paper, construction paper, glue sticks, pencils, crayons, markers. This will most likely be our last shipment to Liberia.

As we move forward, we are looking at new mission and outreach programs. The mission we are considering is New Hope. New Hope provides services for victims of both domestic and sexual violence. Women, men and children are provided safe haven at confidential emergency shelters. While at the center individuals receive crisis intervention & counseling. We will continue to provide you with more information as we explore & determine the needs of this new ministry.

I look forward to working with you all as we work together in Ministry in the name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

FHS,  
Robin Yates, DOK President



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## September Birthdays

4 – Bart Krug  
27 – Rose Reith



## Sundays in September: Creation Season



*If you don't love trees, you don't love God. –*

St. Nikehoros of Chios [1750-1821]

Every Sunday in September we will include a non-scriptural reading and prayers expressing our praise, thanksgiving and commitment to caring for creation.

### **September 3<sup>rd</sup>      14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Labor Day Weekend

9:15    Children's Chapel

9:30    Holy Eucharist

### **September 10<sup>th</sup>      15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30    Holy Eucharist

9:30-10:30    Children's Discussion downstairs

10:30    Children's Chapel with Holy Communion

### **September 17<sup>th</sup>      16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Service to be held in the Parish Hall**

Parish Meeting: Re-Discovering Our Building: A virtual tour

What is the cost of annual maintenance?

What are the opportunities for investment in mission?

9:15    Children's Chapel

9:30    Holy Eucharist

10:15-11:15    Parish Meeting with refreshments

### **September 24<sup>th</sup>      17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:15    Children's Chapel

9:30    Holy Eucharist

### **Looking Ahead:**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Blessing of the Animals: including our pets & stuffed animals**

9:30    Family Worship – Youth will lead the service

10:30    Teens meeting downstairs after the service

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Service will be held in the Parish Hall**

Parish Meeting: Exploring Alternative Models for Ministry:

What congregations are we talking to?

What questions are we asking?

**Mark your calendars:**

**Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> 7 pm**

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

**Hosted by the First United Methodist Church of Southbridge**

## Spiritual Formation



### Children and Youth

**Children's Chapel:** 9:15 am September 3, 17, & 25  
A brief service of prayer and singing led by our youth.

**Sunday School: September 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30 - 10:30 am**

**Children's Chapel – 10:30 am**

We will continue to have classes on one Sunday each month. The dates will be announced.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** We have decided to try something new this year, so that we have more time for instruction and discussion. The children will join the procession at the beginning of the service, and then have an hour-long class based on our VBS curriculum. At 10:30 they will come up for closing prayers and communion in the chapel.

**Save the Date! Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup> 9-11:30am**

**Fall Fun Faith Formation at Bethlehem Lutheran:**

Children will gather for a fall-themed morning of bible stories, games, crafts and songs.

Please contact Melany at [melanygronski@gmail.com](mailto:melanygronski@gmail.com) to sign up for this event!

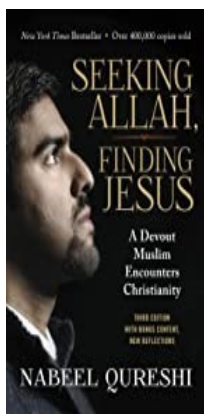
Watch for more information.



### Adult Formation

**Nabeel Qureshi, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* [Zondervan Press, 2014, 2018]**

**Discussion: Thursday, September 28 @ 5 pm \*\*Please note the new time**



Providing an intimate view into a loving Muslim home, Qureshi shares how he developed a passion for Islam before discovering, almost against his will, evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and claimed to be God. Unable to deny the arguments but not wanting to deny his family, Qureshi struggled with an inner turmoil that will challenge Christians, Muslims, and all those who are interested in two of the world's greatest religions and the quest for truth. Qureshi--with great courage and intimacy--wrote this book with three major purposes in mind:

- To tear down walls between Christianity and Islam by giving non-Muslim readers an insider's perspective into a Muslim's heart and mind.
- To equip the reader with facts and knowledge, showing the strength of the case

for the gospel contrasted with the case for Islam.

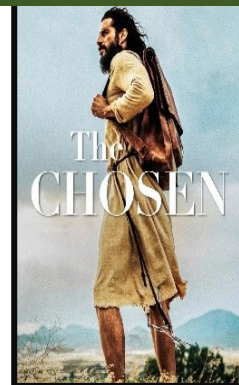
- To portray the immense inner struggle of Muslims grappling with the gospel, including all the sacrifices and doubts that rise along the way.

*Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* a story about the transformative grace and mercy of the one true God.

**NEW! The Chosen:**

We will partner with Bethlehem Lutheran and the Federated Church of Sturbridge for monthly viewing and discussion of Season 1 of this popular video series about the life and ministry of Christ. (On Rotten Tomatoes it has won ratings for 100% by critics and 99% by audience.) It brings to life the figures and experiences in Jesus' ministry.

Robin Yates will coordinate the program with a member of Bethlehem Lutheran. We will meet for 8 sessions (September – May), alternating between our churches, and including some Zoom sessions during the winter months. Watch for more information.



**First Discussion: Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30pm @ Bethlehem Lutheran**

**NEW! Lunch & Learn Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup> 11:30- 1:00 pm****Who was Mary Magdalene?**

We are beginning a new daytime discussion group in September. On 1 Thursday each month we'll meet in the Parish Hall for lunch and discussion of a Scripture-related topic. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, we will learn more about Mary Magdalene. Bishop Fisher has suggested that we look to Mary Magdalene as the patron saint of our diocese. Let's see why. What do we learn from Scripture? What do we learn from other historical documents? What do we learn from different Christian traditions? Materials will be provided. No homework required! Bring your lunch and a dessert to share.

**Intergenerational Formation****Mark your calendars:**

**Sleep Out 4 Homelessness: October 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Fundraiser for St. Luke's Guesthouse**

Family Worship will organize this event for all ages, in which we join with organizations across the country to raise awareness and funds to address homelessness. We will gather in the back yard at Holy Trinity, and we'll construct tents or cardboard boxes to sleep in. On Sunday morning those of us who have slept inside will prepare breakfast before the service. Teens will propose sponsorship opportunities to raise money for St. Luke's Guesthouse.

**Prayer Partners** We're going to try a new approach to building this practice of praying for each other. Each week, at the back of the church there will be a basket of cards, each one with the name of a member of the parish. Each of us will take a card and make the commitment to pray for the person whose name we pick.

**International Dinner & Cabaret: Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm**

We will gather to share our favorite foods. After dinner children, teens and adults will join to offer entertainment (music, dance, skits). Watch for more information.

## Fellowship with Bethlehem Lutheran: Friday Night Fires—S'mores & More



**Friday, September 8th. Beginning at 6 pm**

Our last gathering of the season.

They have a fire pit in their side yard, playground equipment, and room for yard games. Our children can play while we chat.

### **Advent Family Night @ Bethlehem Lutheran**

**5:30-8pm Wednesday November 29th**

Modelled after our Lenten evening last spring, we will gather at Bethlehem Lutheran for a simple supper followed by age-appropriate reflections on Advent. Watch for more information.

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## Food Pantry

In September our donations will go to the Wales Community Food Pantry, which serves the towns of Brimfield, Holland and Wales. It services low-income families, senior citizens, and disabled veterans. Volunteers also deliver food to homebound clients. Rose Reith will deliver our donations on Monday mornings.



They have requested the following items:

- Canned soups-and specifically they always need ramen soup.
- Crackers
- Cereal – Cheerios, Chex, Oatmeal
- Jelly, Jam, Peanut Butter, and Marshmallow Fluff
- Canned carrots, peas and potatoes.
- Condiments like salad dressings, oils, mayonnaise, ketchup and mustard, pickles, etc.
- Juices - shelf stable - grape, apple, etc.
- Orange juice
- The larger styles of pasta like rigatoni and penne - they get lots of spaghetti and elbows donated, but few of the other shapes.
- Treats such as individually packaged cupcakes and cookies.

In the coming months, we will alternate between donations to Wales and donations to the Bridge Fridge, located at 11 Sandersdale Road, Southbridge.

We will continue to support Food Share with financial donations on the second Sunday of each month.

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## Mission Plate for September & October

During the months of September and October we will be asking for donations for disaster relief for the people of Maui. We are all aware of the terrible fires there and human suffering that will go on for a long time. Through Episcopal Relief and Development, we can donate towards services to alleviate their distress. As you make your way to the altar for communion, please make your offering for the people of Maui. Thank you.

Suzy Sharp and the Mission Plate Committee



A painting of a Native Hawaiian Madonna holding baby Jesus stood above the altar of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii. The historic church's building was destroyed by wildfire in August 2023. Photo: Bruce DeGooyer

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## Winter Coat Closet Request



We are probably all thinking where did summer go? The children are back to school and days are getting shorter! We are fortunate to enjoy each beautiful season here in New England. But there are those who may not look forward to the cold weather and are finding times are tough. If you're cleaning out closets and find any winter weight coats, hats, gloves, or scarves that you'd be willing to donate, please bring them to the church office. We accept men's, women's and children's winter coats in good condition. More information coming soon. Thank you & God Bless!

Chris McTigue, Coordinator for The Winter Coat Closet

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## Imagine . . .

### *A proposal from Jean Frost*

As the Vestry continues to gather information about what role our building plays in our mission, please consider the exercise I am proposing:

Close your eyes, then put on your imagination hat. There is a building in Southbridge. The building can take whatever form, size, or shape you see in your imagination. A small congregation may or may not hold a weekly service there on Sunday mornings. People enter and exit the building during the week. The “people” may or may not be members of the congregation. The address is 446 Hamilton Street. Your mission, should you accept it, is to describe what goes on inside that building.



You may write up your description or you may draw it. Please discuss it with others during the coffee hour if you are willing or send your thoughts or pictures to me in an email ([jofvmd@charter.net](mailto:jofvmd@charter.net)).

EVERYONE is encouraged to take part in this exercise. There are no age limits. Use your imagination. Nothing is off limits. Get creative, and have fun!

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**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

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(trinity)

**Office Hours:**\*unless otherwise noted\*

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**The Episcopal Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

**Sunday Service**

9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

**The Rev. Judith Lee**  
**Priest-in-Charge**



Website



Facebook



Tithely—Giving