



APRIL TIDINGS

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A Reflection from Your Priest-in-Charge

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

It is with great joy that I greet you in this my first newsletter. We have been on quite the journey as we have navigated the details of the shared pastor partnership between Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. That journey is only just getting going as we begin our time together in April. I have been blessed to meet many of you when we gathered together for worship only a few short weeks ago, and I'm looking forward to meeting all of you as we begin our time together. As we embark on this partnership, I would love the opportunity to share in fellowship with all of you over a cup of coffee or a meal as you are willing.

A few things to know about me, I graduated from United Lutheran Seminary in the spring of 2019 and began my first call at Bethlehem Lutheran on July 1st 2019. I can be frequently found at any of the numerous coffee shops that are in the area. I would certainly call myself a foodie, and I definitely enjoy a good craft beer on occasion. I'm also an avid Bruce Springsteen fan, seeing four shows last year, with four more to go this year. Springsteen lyrics have been known to show up in my sermons on occasion. I'm a lover of all New England sports teams as well as UConn basketball. I'm currently working on becoming a more avid hiker, as I do love to spend time outside. I'm also a sucker for good barbecue, especially ribs.

The words of the Prophet Isaiah come to mind as we arrive at this particular moment; it's probably one of my favorite passages in scripture, especially these days:

***I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.***

[Isaiah 43: 19]

Siblings in Christ, I'm very much looking forward to doing new things with all of you as the Spirit leads us. Grace and peace to all of you in the midst of this new season.

Peace,

Pastor Dan



Daughters of the King

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God I Will do.

Lord, what will you have me do?



The vision of the founders of the Daughters of the King was to be an extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters is to know Jesus Christ, to make him known to others, and to reflect God's love throughout the world. When we take our vows to become Daughters, we create a covenant between God and ourselves. It helps us to focus on our walk in Life with Jesus Christ. We take on the Rule of Life to pray daily for those in need, for unity within Christ's church & the world, for the spreading of Christ's Kingdom, and for spiritual growth within our parish. We take on the Rule of Service; seeking to do the will of God each day; assisting in the outreach and work of the Church. "Evangelism is the presentation of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in such ways that other persons may be led to believe in Him as Savior and follow him as Lord within the fellowship of the Church." Each Daughter promises to make a faithful effort to live out this definition in her life.

It is with great joy that the Mary & Martha Chapter of the Daughters of the King will be welcoming Rose Reith and Traci Stuart into the Daughters of the King on April 7, 2024 at our 9:30 service here at Holy Trinity Church. Please welcome them and pray for them as they promise to live a life of prayer and service, helping to spread His word and help His people in any small way that we each can.

We have completed our outreach mission to Liberia. During this past month we completed packing our final barrel. It is hard to believe that we have been in partnership with the Sons & Daughters of the King in Buchanan, Liberia for four years. With your help and generosity, we have sent clothes, along with medical and personal hygiene supplies, Covid supplies, school supplies, and most recently, five barrels of a wide range of books! From toddler to adult, from the learning of the ABC's to medical and dental textbooks. This has truly been an outreach mission of Love & Generosity!! A true mission of Fellowship. The Daughters cannot thank you enough for helping us in this outreach mission for our fellow Brothers & Sisters in Christ.

FHS, Robin Yates, President

Mary & Martha Chapter of the DOK



Spiritual Dance

We are looking to add a spiritual dance portion to our service during Eastertide. The date is TBD based on interest. Colleen DeMings has offered to teach some dance motions to a group of youth and children. The spiritual dance of worship would be during the Postlude section of the service.

If you are interested, please contact me at anniebouv@gmail.com, or speak to me after church or during coffee hour. We will set up a short meeting after church to find a time to rehearse and to decide what Sunday is convenient for the participants. Thank you!
Anne



Food Pantry

Our April donations will go to Wales Community Food Pantry. Please bring canned meats or your favorite non-perishable food.

Thank you.

Rose Reith & Karron Lacey



BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Karen Ballou
- 1 – Anna Burns
- 6 – David DeMings
- 18—Susan Howland
- 20 – John Dirlam
- 20 —Madisynn Segarra

Vestry Highlights

Resolved

- * Accepted a Covenant for Shared Clerical Leadership with Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- * Authorized designation of endowed funds for the Fitzpatrick Fund Scholarship to Madisynn Segarra
- * Authorized Pastor Dan to be on the Rector's Discretionary Account

Discussion

- ⇒ **What have we done well?** Retreat with Bethlehem Lutheran; Lenten Family Night at Bethlehem Lutheran; Game night; Hymn Sing
- ⇒ **What could we have done better?** Communication about the Lenten program

Spiritual Formation: Children and Teens

April 7 The Second Sunday in Easter
Family Worship
Admission Ceremony for Daughters of the King
9:30 am Family Worship
11:00-noon: Youth Group (Grades 7-12)



Children's Chapel: 10:45 am April 21st & 28th

Holy Trinity Youth Group

Spring, like adolescence, is a time of change. Please pray for us.

Lord, as I face this change, make me "like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither," and grant favor and prosperity in whatever I do. —Bob Hostetler (based on Psalm 1:3)

We had a successful Group Meeting on March 3rd. We shared how much fun the Games Night was, how busy we were with everything, and we planned for the spring.

April 27th The Youth invite everyone to attend our:



International Heritage Celebration
Potluck Dinner & Cabaret
With Holy Trinity and Bethlehem Lutheran parishes
6:00 p.m. Dinner followed by a Talent Show

We are asking all Youth and families to come and celebrate everyone's heritage by:
 making a dish to serve 5-6, and
 sharing a talent with friends in Christ.

Talent: Individual or Group

Spoken Word: Read a poem, Slam a poem, tell a family story (current or ancestors) or heritage story; create or perform a one act play.

Sing: A song that tells us of you and/or your heritage.

Dance: A dance that tells us of you and/or your heritage.

Play an instrument: A song that relates to you and/or your heritage.

Sing and Play: Too Cool.

Make a Video: Create a video that relates to you and/or your heritage.

Our May meeting will be during the first week of May online: Watch for more information.

Adult Formation

The Chosen: Episode 8 – Wednesday April 24th 5:30-7:00 pm @ Bethlehem Lutheran

We will share a simple supper of soup, bread, and dessert before viewing and discussion. This will be our last meeting of the year.

Intergenerational Fellowship

International Dinner and Cabaret Hosted by our Teens

Sundays in April

April 7	Second Sunday of Easter
	Mother Judith will preside and preach
9:30 am	Family Worship
	Admission of Rose Reith & Traci Stuart to Daughters of the King
	Special Coffee Hour following the service
11am-noon	Teens meet downstairs
April 14th	Third Sunday of Easter
	Pastor Dan's First Sunday
11:00 am	Holy Communion
	Special Coffee Hour following the service
April 21st	Fourth Sunday of Easter
	Earth Day Celebration
	Mother Judith will preside and preach
10:45am	Children's Chapel
11:00 am	Holy Communion
April 28th	Fifth Sunday of Easter
	Pastor Dan will preside and preach
10:45 am	Children's Chapel
11:00 am	Holy Communion

A Note from Mother Judith

Dear Friends,

This isn't good-bye, because I will help out during April and I will return to serve at Holy Trinity when Pastor Dan takes his sabbatical in August, September, and October. This is a chance to say thank you, to wish you every blessing on your new journey, and to express my wonder at the mysterious ways that the Holy Spirit has moved among us.

When I arrived in January of 2022, we were just emerging from the pandemic. I will never forget your joy in seeing each for the first time at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that year. Everyone seemed to be walking on air! In this shared love and trust we have been guided by the Holy Spirit throughout these 2 years as you restored your traditions by incorporating new practices—in Hospitality, Family Worship, Church School, Choir, Adult Formation, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Outreach. We moved the altar, remodeled the Chapel, began singing in worship again, our choir returned and our youth and children have learned to lead worship in a variety of roles. Your resilience and deeply-grounded love for each other were apparent as you assessed what worked and what didn't, what to reclaim and what to put aside, when to step aside and when to step forward. I'm very excited for you, and my heart is full at seeing how natural this new partnership and pastoral relationship seem to be.

The purpose of a sabbatical is rest, study, prayer, and renewal. Typically, when a priest takes a sabbatical, the congregation also engages in their own period of rest, study, prayer, and renewal. When I return, our relationship will be different—Pastor Dan will continue to be your priest and pastor. While he is away, we will create ways that you as a community can use those three months for your own rest and renewal, prayer and study.

My personal reading for Lent has been *Spirit Wheel*, by Steven Charleston. This meditation is my prayer for you:

The Spirit is with you.

You will feel the sacred enfold you.

You will be renewed in the vision that has guided you.

You will discover a path you need

And the sources of your support will both surprise and comfort you.

Mother Judith

April “Easter” Mission Plate: Meals on Wheels America



Meals on Wheels America supports community-based programs dedicated primarily to addressing senior hunger and isolation. Their vision statement shares their hope for “an America in which all seniors live nourished lives with independence and dignity,” and their Mission Statement stresses their desire “to empower local community programs to improve the health and quality of life of the seniors they serve so that no one is left hungry or isolated” (<https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/>).

To support their vision and mission, Meals on Wheels is staffed mainly by community volunteers. However, Meals on Wheels delivers more to seniors than just food. The meal is only the first step. While the meals help seniors remain independent, those meals in combination with the accompanying human interaction provide more than just independence. The meals along with the attention of the volunteers who deliver them provide seniors with access to tailored nutrition, social connection, and safety. Our donations to Meals on Wheels America, provide funding, programming, education, research, and advocacy. Indeed, their website claims, “Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time” (<https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/>).

Significant statistical data from the Meals on Wheels website:

- One in four Americans is 60+ and 12,000 more turn 60 each day!
- Among Americans 60 and older, 29 % have a disability, 24% live alone, and 12% are veterans.
- Seniors on fixed incomes are especially vulnerable to inflation.
- Older adults are already at greater risk of malnutrition because of decreased appetite, mobility issues and prescription medications.
- Of older Americans who receive help from Meals on Wheels:

77% say the meals improve their health.

85% say they feel more secure.

92% report that the meals help them live independently.

Meals on Wheels starts with nutritious meals, but those meals create an opportunity for relationships to flourish and community connections to bloom and thrive. Those connections can then be used to identify needs and provide services that help seniors stay in their homes and to feel independent yet supported. Meals on Wheels promotes good nutrition and social connection for seniors, thus improving their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Rose Reith





**Celebrate Our International Heritage
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
and
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Dinner and Cabaret**

**This invitation is for every adult and child of
Bethlehem Lutheran and Holy Trinity**

It is our diversity that makes us interesting and strong

What: Potluck Dinner followed by an International Talent Show

When: April 27, 2024, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

6:00 - 6:45 pm Dinner

7:00 - 8:00 pm Cabaret On Stage

**Where: Fellowship Hall, Holy Trinity Church, 446 Hamilton Street,
Southbridge**

What to Bring?

A dish that celebrates your international/family heritage (enough to serve 5-6)

The ingredients list for your dish

A talent relating to your family heritage to share,

Individual or Group Talent for Every Age

**Tell a Story (Cultural, Family Tradition, Ancestry, Personal), Read or Slam
a Poem, Sing a Song, Play a Song/Instrument, Perform a Dance, Wear
Cultural Costume/Dress, Perform a Skit, Make a Video on YouTube to
Share, etc.**

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**The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts**

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Pastor Dan Purtell, Priest-in-Charge



Website



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Tithly –Giving
