

SEPTEMBER TIDINGS

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A Reflection from your Interim Priest



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We know that from the beginning until now, all of creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. And not only creation, but all of us who possess the first fruits of the Spirit—we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free. In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen: For who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. [Romans 8:22-25]

When we move from nature, our hearts become hard. [Lakota saying]

The guiding principle for Creation Season 2024 (September 1st-October 6th) is *to hope and act with creation*. Our readings and prayers emphasize that the earth is not a resource to be used or protected, but a living entity into which human life has been woven. The logo is an image of human hands reaching out to our Incarnate God in creation. It reminds us that, as Paul reiterates in the Letter to the Romans, to hope is not to wait passively for external change, but to take initiative with trust in the ongoing presence of God in and around us. To hope is to recognize that pain and uncertainty are “birth pangs,” signs of imminent new life. To hope is to trust in the goodness of what we do not know. To hope is to trust that we are ever growing into a new way of being alive. In the words of Roberta Solnit: *Hope is not like a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky. Hope is an axe you break down doors with in an emergency. . . . Hope means another world might be possible, not promised, not guaranteed.*

This is a timely message—for *to hope and act with creation* is the foundation for our first practice in the Way of Love: TURN.

Mary Oliver, in her poem “When I am among Trees” expresses what it means to take this step during Creation Season:

*When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks, and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness. . . .*

I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

*I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,*

*and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.
Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, “Stay awhile.”*

*The light flows from their branches.
And they call again, “It’s simple,”
they say, “and you, too, have come
into the world to do this, to go easy,
to be filled with light, and to shine.”*

Mother Judith



Daughters of the King

*For His Sake...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.*

The DOK continues to move forward in ministry. After much discussion, the Daughters voted to adopt **New Hope** as our chapter's mission outreach service ministry. New Hope is a non-profit organization serving those affected by domestic and sexual violence. Since domestic & sexual violence are often intertwined, New Hope's clients benefit from a full spectrum of programs. According to one client: *"My New Hope counselor picked me up when I stumbled, taught me how to build healthy relationships, boosted my self-confidence, and most importantly, she didn't*

let me off the hook when I needed to be honest with myself!"

New Hope has an office in Southbridge, so our mission will directly address the local community

On **Sunday September 29th** we will welcome Christine Gaze, a Board member of New Hope. She will give a presentation to the congregation and all of us will have the opportunity to talk with her about New Hope and how our chapter of the DOK can support their mission.



The Combined Youth Group Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC) and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (HTEC)

On Friday August 23, 2024, The Combined Youth Group held a Family Kick Off Potluck Dinner in Holy Trinity's parish hall from 6:30-8:00 pm. Youth Registration for the Combined Youth Group was followed by a sumptuous feast provided by the families and Youth Group Leaders (Heather Miranda (BLC) and David Monroe (HTEC)). This was followed by a brief introductory meeting of the youth to discuss a name change, what the group is about, plus their individual interests, and a list of upcoming events which include:

September 7, 2024 Bethlehem Closet Open House at Bethlehem Lutheran Church from 9:00AM to closing. Morning and afternoon shifts.

September 15, 2024 Apple Picking at Brookfield Orchards Departing HTEC at 1:30PM and returning at 4:00PM

And Peace Begins

An Introduction by Jean Frost

My mother gave me a copy of *And Peace Begins* many years ago. She may have sung it with her church choir and then passed it on to me. I carefully tucked it away in my music “library” and I came across it several months ago. It was one of the songs I played and sang for her when I visited. By the time I found this piece of music my mother did not remember giving it to me. So, I typed Nancy Loux into a Google search and found her obituary. I found that she had belonged to an Episcopal Church in Wilmington, DE, which is not too far from where my mother lived in PA. I called the church to see about using this music in church. I learned that Nancy wanted her music to be shared and as long as we attributed the music to her it would be fine for us to use.

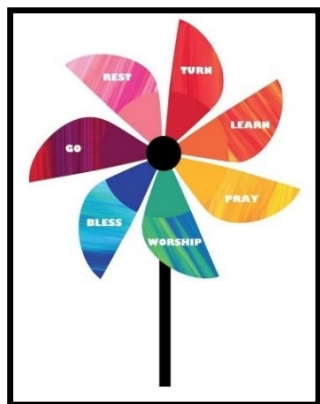
And Peace Begins was written by Nancy Loux in 1988. She and her husband moved to Wilmington, DE in 1956, when her husband began a job with Dupont. Nancy was an active member of Immanuel Highlands Episcopal Church in Wilmington for many years. She served on the Vestry and was a member of the choir, among other things. She worked as a school Psychologist in PA and DE for 18 years. At the age of 70 she learned to play the harp and became part of the Brandywine Celtic Harp Orchestra. Nancy composed about 75 songs, many of them spiritual songs sung in churches.



September Birthdays

4 – Bart Krug
27—Rose Reith





The Way of Love: Faith Formation for All Ages

September	TURN
October	LEARN
November	PRAY
December	WORSHIP
January	BLESS
February	GO

This year, we are trying a new experiment for Faith Formation: All of us will participate in The Way of Love, a program designed by the Episcopal Church to guide us toward developing a Rule of Life—an *intentional commitment to a set of practices that provide guidance, rhythm, and inspiration for living a beautiful, meaningful, and holy life. As we place these practices at the heart of our daily lives and join with companions who share the commitment, we grow more and more in the unselfish, hope-filled Way of Love that Jesus embodied in the world.*

Each month, we will focus on one of these practices (listed above). Each practice involves 3 steps: reading Scripture (“say it”), saying a prayer (“pray it”), and doing something (“live it”). And there are 3 options for how to take each of these steps. These steps are listed on a deck of cards, and every household will receive a deck. On the first Sunday—with Family Worship—we will introduce the practice of that month. On the third Sunday, we will gather at 10 a.m. in the parish hall to share our stories and insights. Other explanatory materials are available at the church. To learn more and to download more materials, go to [BIG Way of Love for Kids](#)

September: TURN

In our Baptismal Covenant we are asked 3 questions:

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord

To each question we answered *I do*.

By saying, praying, and living this practice this month, we renew our baptismal promises, and we learn how to reorient our lives to Jesus Christ.

Say it: Luke 15:11-32; Psalm 51:10-12; Matthew 4:18-20

Pray it: *Hi God, I love you. Amen.*

Dear God, thank you for teaching my heart to turn around; help me listen to the voice in my heart that reminds me you are always there, always ready to welcome me. Amen.

O God, every day I get to choose how I will follow Jesus.. I turn my heart to you again, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Live it: Holding a rock, think of a mistake you have made; squeeze the rock, and in doing so hand that mistake over to Jesus, then pour water over the rock .

Using any material, create an image of Jesus as you imagine him looking as you turn toward him.

Mission Plate for September & October

The mission plate during September and October will go towards helping the ministries in the Episcopal Church in Navajoland . This ministry is comprised of three regions, and each region has three churches. At this time of year your donation is particularly important as families prepare for winter. They need clothing and supplies for school, coats and fuel assistance for their homes, and assistance with planning for the holidays. After the arid summer, they need to replenish their water supply. Families depend upon water (for drinking, washing, watering animals and gardens) delivered to their homes by 500-gallon trucks. Fresh vegetables are provided by the Plantar Box Ministry during the summer.

Please offer up your donation as you approach the altar rail for communion. They greatly appreciate our gifts and prayers.

"A'he'hee" means thank you!
Suzy Sharp, for the Mission Plate



For September our donations will go the
Wales Community Pantry
Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you from Elmsford Elementary School for your donation of school supplies !

Winter Coat Closet

In a few weeks Autumn will be upon us and the days will be getting shorter. Fall is a wonderful time of year with apple picking, pumpkins and pretty leaves everywhere!

And when the air is crisp, we start thinking about Winter and the cold. Maybe you start doing fall cleaning? Please keep us in mind for donating warm winter-weight coats and other winter items. We are looking to open at the end of October but will have more information next month. Donations can be received any time the office is open.

Thanks so much!

Chris McTigue





BETHLEHEM'S CLOSET POP UP SALE

JOIN US ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH
10:00 AM ~ 5:00 PM
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
345 MAIN STREET
STURBRIDGE

SHOP OUR AMAZING BRAND NAME "NEW TO YOU"
CLOTHING, SHOES, AND ACCESSORIES FOR WOMEN, MEN, TEENS & CHILDREN
COFFEE AND PASTRIES AVAILABLE

Dates to Remember

Sunday September 8th
9 am—Backpack Blessings

Monday September 9th
7 pm Council Meeting

Tuesday September 17th
6:30 pm Collaboration Team

Sunday September 22nd
9 am Bluegrass Service

Wednesday September 25th
5:30 pm *The Chosen*
Season 2, Episodes 7 & 8
Potluck, viewing, & discussion

Food Share, Inc.

Food Share of Southbridge made a successful transition from Catholic Charities to

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (HTEC).

During August, Greg, our sexton, cleaned the walls and waxed the floors to perfection. Lynn Garland (Holy Trinity) and Dave Ormsby (Food Share) painted one of the rooms to be used by food share. Shelving, desks and cabinets were assembled by members of Food Share, Holy Trinity and the Combined Youth Group of HTC and Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC). Many members of Food Share, Holy Trinity and Combined Youth Group moved the remaining food and equipment from Catholic Charities, and first pick-up from Worcester County Food Bank of Shrewsbury. Food Share of Southbridge opened its doors to the public on Wednesday August 21, 2024.

Food Share of Southbridge hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00-11:15AM.

On the second Tuesday of each month, Food Share picks up hundreds of pounds of food from Worcester County Food Bank and unloads into Holy Trinity. Periodic pick up and deliveries of bread and other groceries occur each week from local grocery stores, and the public.

Volunteers are welcome anytime during Food Share hours of operation and pickup and unloading from Worcester County Food Bank. For more information, please contact David Monroe at (774)334-0347 or dmonroe.689@gmail.com.

SOUTHBRIDGE FOOD SHARE

WISH LIST

POWDERED MASHED POTATOES
 PANCAKE MIX
 MAPLE SYRUP
 JELLY (GRAPE)
 PEANUT BUTTER
 MACARONI & CHEESE
 SPAGHETTI
 JELLO
 APPLE JUICE (HALF GALLONS)
 CANNED CHICKEN
 SALTINE CRACKERS



FOOD DONATIONS
 CAN BE LEFT IN THE
 NARTHEX AND ARE
 DELIVERED TO FOOD
 SHARE MONTHLY

THANK YOU!





Sundays in September

Our readings and prayers will reflect Creation Season
(September 1-October 6)
September Spiritual Practice: **TURN**

September 1st 15th Sunday after Pentecost
1st Sunday of Creation Season
Labor Day Weekend
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

September 8th 16th Sunday after Pentecost
2nd Sunday of Creation Season
9 a.m. Mother Judith will preside at Bethlehem Lutheran: Backpack Blessing
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

September 15th 17th Sunday after Pentecost
3rd Sunday of Creation Season
10 a.m. Formation for All Ages;: The Way of Love: **Turn**
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

September 22nd 18th Sunday after Pentecost
4th Sunday of Creation Season
9 a.m. Mother Judith will preside at Bethlehem Lutheran:
Bluegrass Service
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

September 29th 19th Sunday after Pentecost
5th Sunday of Creation Season
Guest Speaker: Christine Gaze, Project HOPE
10:30 a.m. DOK Meet and Greet with Christine Gaze
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Noon Coffee Hour with the opportunity for discussion with Christine Gaze



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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

11:00 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

**The Rev. Dan Purtell
Priest-in-Charge**



Website



Facebook



Tithely—Giving