



# OCTOBER TIDINGS

Volume 6 Issue 10

October 2024

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## Stewardship Season 2024

Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Ephesians 5:2**

### A Reflection from your Interim Priest

*Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that. {Ephesians 5:1-3; The Message by Eugene Peterson}*

This translation by Eugene Peterson captures, I think, the meaning of Stewardship Season this year. The theme—Walk in Love—is familiar to us. Through our monthly practices we are learning that to “walk in love” is a way of living. This passage reminds us that we are called to a *bold* and *extravagant* way of living, not because we have nothing to fear but because we trust in the God revealed by Christ, who loves without measure, who loves for the sake of loving—not to win our loyalty but because that is what he does, what he is. God is Love.

Through our monthly practices we are growing into the way of life to which Christ calls us, a way of life centered on learning, praying, worship, blessing, going out, and rest. A way of loving that is boldly inclusive. A way of life in which we share blessings in addition to accepting them in gratitude. A way of life in which we are humble enough to rest.

Holy Trinity has long aspired to *walk in love* with our Southbridge neighbors. Your partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran has opened new paths for this journey. Your pledge is a promise to continue this journey with compassion and hope.

*Mother Judith+*

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## Mission Plate for October

The mission plate during 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

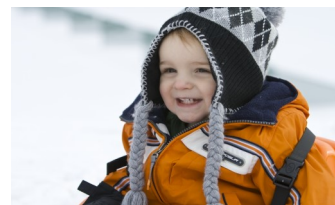


## Food Pantry

Our donations in October will go to the Wales Community Food Pantry.

### October Birthdays

- 4 – Will Pieczynski
- 7 – Chris Briere
- 14 – Leenah Gossman
- 18—Anita Bullard
- 18—Eric Bullard
- 19—Jean Frost
- 24—Marilyn Theodoss
- 30 –Lorraine Brumskine
- 31 – Joseph Ballou



### Winter Coat Closet

**will be opening for the season on**

**Saturday October 26th**

**9:30–11:30 AM**

**Open every Saturday thru**

**December 14th**

**Please donate gently used, clean, winter-weight coats, scarves, gloves and mittens.**

**We have men's, women's & children's coats. Help us spread the word to anyone in need of a warm coat.**

**Winter's coming!**

## 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.

Lord, what will you have me do?

The Mary & Martha Chapter of the Daughters of the King would like to take this time to thank you all for joining us in celebration as we welcomed Judy Reich back into the Mary & Martha Chapter of the DOK on August 25, 2024. It truly was a Very Blessed & Beautiful Day!! Judy is very appreciative of all the well wishes she received from so many of you!

The Daughters welcomed Christine Gaze, from New Hope, Inc., on Sunday September 29th. She talked to us about the outreach mission work of New Hope, and offered guidance on how individuals can respond to what we believe may be an abusive situation.. We hope that you all enjoyed learning more about the Daughters Of the King new mission outreach project, especially as we begin Domestic Abuse Awareness Month in October A list of the supplies they need is posted on our bulletin board and is available in the narthex. To learn more go to <https://www.new-hope.org>.

God's Peace & Blessings be with you all,

FHS

Robin Yates, DOK President



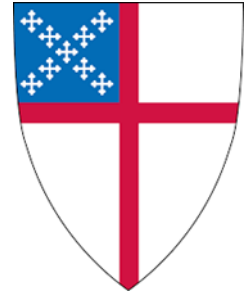
## The United Thank Offering...

**not just another fundraiser, but an opportunity to practice Gratitude.**

Our Holy Trinity United Thank Offering Ingathering will be on **Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>** during the 11 a.m. service. Count up the coins in your "Blue Box", put a bill or check in an envelope and bring your offering on October 20th. Our parish offering will be sent to the diocese and combined with offerings from other churches in the diocese to be granted in 2024.....every penny is granted! Our offering in 2023 was \$387.56.

Don't have a "Blue Box"? They are available at the back of the church.





## A View from The Episcopal Church General Convention

In June I attended The Episcopal Church General Convention in Louisville, Kentucky as a delegate to the ECW Triennial Meeting representing Province 1. The ECW Triennial Meeting is held in conjunction with The Episcopal Church General Convention, the every 3-year meeting of all dioceses in The Episcopal Church.

The General Convention is a legislative body that has two houses: the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops; it is structured much like our congress in Washington. Our diocese sends deputies—four lay and four clergy—and our Bishop to General Convention, and women delegates to the ECW Triennial. The House of Deputies and the House of Bishops review and vote on hundreds of resolutions; everything from not using plastic water bottles to statements on the war in Gaza. The resident and vice president of the house of deputies are elected, and once every nine years a presiding bishop is elected. This year The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe was elected to succeed Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

Each day of convention began with worship in the General Convention worship space holding thousands of people. There were no printed service leaflets. Portions of the service were projected on screens and most people used an electronic device to follow the service, written in three languages. A jazz band and cantors led this year's music. The music was wide-ranging, from contemporary to traditional chant. After worship people left for their various meetings.

About 300 ECW delegates met for prayer, business, education (speakers/workshops) and networking. This year we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary, which became our current National ECW. In 1871 women were authorized by the men to organize, as women had no seat, voice or vote in the General Convention until 1970.

During our meeting we viewed *The Philadelphia 11*, a documentary about 11 women who were irregularly ordained as priests in 1974 by three bishops in The Episcopal Church. At the following General Convention women's ordination to the priesthood was put to a vote and approved. The keynote speaker was Rev. Catherine Kropp, now a priest in Hawaii. She spent seven months during 2022-2023 in north Lebanon as an international volunteer with Relief and Reconciliation who run a safe house for vulnerable youth. There were 16 workshops, on topics from monastic communities to parliamentary procedure. Another educational experience was the Exhibit Hall in the Convention Center, which had over 100 booths representing various missions and ministries.

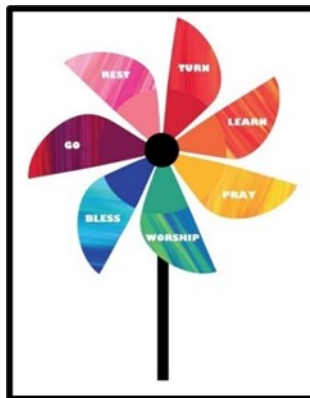
Two Louisville ministries were profiled at the Triennial Meeting and presentations were given by their directors. One was "House of Hope Kentucky," a ministry to abused, homeless and drug-addicted women. The other was "Orphans Care Alliance." Funds and other items were collected for both organizations.

The business portion of the meeting worked on bylaws, elections, and other discussion topics. Elections brought a new National ECW Board. See: <https://ecwnational.org/> for more information. The next General Convention/Triennial Meeting will be July 2027, in Phoenix, AZ.

Susan Howland, Province 1 ECW president 2018-2024

## Faith Formation

October	LEARN
November	PRAY
December	WORSHIP
January	BLESS
February	GO
March	REST



This year, we are trying a new experiment for Faith Formation: All of us are participating in The Way of Love, a program designed by the Episcopal Church to guide us toward developing a Rule of Life. Each month, we 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 a deck is available for every household.

On the first Sunday of each month—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](#)

### October: LEARN

Stories offer an extraordinary opportunity to learn. The best stories for all of us to learn are stories about Jesus and his love for us. Jesus knows that children are important in their own right, and that they are often underestimated. Children need to know that they have a place of honor in God’s kingdom, in the church, and in their families. As we invite them further into Jesus’ love and life, and as they grow into their own ministries, we offer them stories about Jesus so that they can learn from his example of love and life in the world.

**Say it:** Luke 2:41-52; John 14:7,23; Wisdom 7:25-27

**Pray it:** *Hi God, Thank you for the Bible. Amen.*

*Dear God, your story is my story, too. I pray today that you will help my heart and mind to understand what your teachings mean for my life. Amen.*

*Almighty and everlasting God, grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation we may come to know you more truly and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Live it:** Game: What does goodness look like? Smell like? Feel like? Sound like? Taste like?

Watch some Bible stories on youtube@TheGodlyPlayFoundation

Find a bible verse that you like. Write it on a small card or postit and put it on your bathroom mirror so that you can learn and memorize it.

**Adult Formation:** Wednesday **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 5:30pm –7:00 pm. We will gather at Bethlehem Lutheran to watch *The Chosen*. Season 2, Episode 8.. We will take a break during November and December, and begin Season 3 in January 2025.

### Youth Group

#### Harvest Fest @ Bethlehem Lutheran Service Project

Friday 10/18 - 5 pm Preparing the displays

**Saturday 10/19—9am—5pm** staffing the tent: 2-hour shifts

**Sunday 10/20—11am—5pm** Staffing the tent: 2-hour shifts



## Holy Trinity invited to participate in a National Attender Survey

The General Convention Office of The Episcopal Church has invited us to participate in a survey that will explore the Pandemic Impact on Congregations. This church-wide survey is open to all parishioners age 18 and older. **Holy Trinity has signed up** and has been provided a "unique to our parish" link that we will be sending in a separate email to all parish members. In gratitude for our participation, we will receive a monetary compensation and reports that come from the survey. Our newly elected Presiding Bishop is a proponent and strong supporter of this survey and we encourage all to participate.

FROM OUR  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
ANNE

*Join us for*

*Choir Rehearsal*

*Watch for more information*



### Parish Directory

The updated 2024 Members & Friends Directory is available on our website. Go to the Members tab/ Parish Directory 2024 password: trinity

Please contact Chris in the office if you would like a printed copy.



## Sundays in October: The Way of Love: Learn Stewardship Season



### October 6<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Last Sunday of Creation Season  
Family Worship

**9:30 am. -1:00 pm** Intergenerational Mini-Retreat:

**11:00 am** Instructed Eucharist with prayers of blessing for our pets

### October 13<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**9:00 am** Mother Judith presides at Bethlehem Lutheran

**11:00 am** Holy Eucharist  
Stewardship Reflection

### October 20<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### UTO Ingathering

**10:00 am** Discussion: The Way of Love-LEARN in the Parish Hall  
Robin Yates, Facilitator

**11:00 am** Holy Eucharist with prayers for our Confirmation class & mentors  
Stewardship Reflection

### October 27 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### Mother Judith's Last Sunday

**11:00 am** Holy Eucharist  
Stewardship Reflection

### November 3<sup>rd</sup> All Saints Sunday

**Pastor Dan Returns**



### Dates to Remember

Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>—1 pm Blessing of Pets on Sturbridge Common

Monday October 14<sup>th</sup>—7 pm Council Meeting

Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>—9 am—Bluegreass Service

Wednesday October 23<sup>rd</sup>—*The Chosen* 5:30-7 pm

Season 2, Episode 8. Potluck dinner, viewing & discussion

Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>—Reformation Sunday

**Pastor Dan Returns**

### Harvest Fest

Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> 9am—5 pm

Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> 11am—5 pm



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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 Services**

**11:00 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist**

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



Website



Facebook



Tithely